

SUMMER 1994

# Washington

WASHINGTON COLLEGE MAGAZINE



## *WC's First Centennial Year*

AT WC, THOSE WHO CAN, TEACH  
LESSONS FROM AMBROSE AND McCULLOUGH  
CAROL WILSON ON THE PATTY CANNON GANG

## Letters

Congratulations on another fine issue, Spring 1994. The *Washington College Magazine* is read cover-to-cover on the same day I receive it.

I especially enjoyed the photographs in the article, "Images of Liberation." I call your attention to an inaccurate caption of the photograph on page 16. The American Red Cross is a civilian organization. Of the men shown, the one in front is a Technician 4th grade, U.S. Army Medical Corps. The man in the rear is a medic of the French Army, as signified by his shoulder patch. I think these soldiers should be properly identified for the photographic exhibit. I regret that I cannot return to the college before the exhibit departs.

*Anthony Donaldson Tall '50  
Cheshire, Connecticut*

### *Editor's Note:*

*Thanks to Eleanor Colston of Chestertown, MD, who called to point out also that the two men pictured were soldiers, not civilian American Red Cross workers, and that the "American Red Cross hospital ship" to which the diary entry referred was actually a Naval vessel.*

The article on Ben Vandervoort in your Spring issue brought back powerful memories.

I served with Ben in the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division all through World War II until he was evacuated in the Battle of the Bulge. Of course, he was a Lt. Col. commanding a battalion, and I was a communications

sergeant in the Regt. HQ Co.

When I saw Ben in Normandy walking on improvised crutches and being pulled around on his hand cart, I was completely amazed and filled with admiration. His pain must have been excruciating. Any normal man would have laid back, accepted evacuation, and have been honored for his effort. Ben knew his battalion would fight best under his leadership, and stuck for the campaign.

Washington College has lost an alumnus of whom we can be very proud.

*W. O. Sutton '42  
San Francisco, California*

The Student Government Association writes this letter to thank all alumni who participate in the life of our College. This has been an eventful year that we will always remember and it is, in large part, because you have remembered and supported us.

In September the SGA and the Alumni Council met in a forum to discuss how we might work together on projects that would serve our common interests. When we met for this meeting, many of us, students and alumni, were strangers to each other. Not so any more!

The SGA asked the Alumni Council to help us realize Casey Time, a community service project to honor Betty Casey's '47 legacy of making our campus more beautiful. Casey Time muddled, delighted, and made friends of all in attendance.

The SGA was also determined to revitalize the tradition of Washington's Birthday Ball and asked for alumni support. A gener-

ous gift of decorations from the Hargrove family and the good humored-participation of the Chairman of our Board, Louis Goldstein '35 as King of the Mardi Gras, and German professor Jeff Vahlbusch as Master of Ceremonies helped to excite more than 1,200 persons to attend and made this the most popular Ball in College history. The community spirit was like that of Casey Time, students, faculty, and alumni sharing good spirits, this time in glitter and sequins instead of raindrops and mud.

Also in the spirit of community, alumni have volunteered to work with the SGA on their annual Parents' Day program in spring. The Sophomore Class is planning a forum in which students representing different majors will explain to parents what this study will entail for the next two years, and how postgraduate occupations fit into undergraduate imaginations. The sophomores have recruited an enthusiastic panel of alumni representing the same majors and diverse careers who will explain to our parents how their WC experience prepared them for their current occupations. Thanks, in advance, to the alumni who will assure our parents that we can love philosophy and music and be gainfully employed.

Washington College students' memories are etched with these events and our lives are touched by the alumni who help make them happen. Your support for us does not go unnoticed.

*Max Walton '95  
Vice President  
Washington College SGA*



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About the Cover: Sophomore Kouri Coleman (#19) and senior Liz Olivere play a ball up against Gettysburg during WC's first Centennial Conference season.  
Photo: Trisha McGee '81.

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# THE REPORTER

## Ambrose, McCullough Impart Lessons Of History

Stephen Ambrose and David McCullough, two noted authors, added their vibrant sense of history to the College's George Washington's birthday celebration. Marking the year in which the nation commemorates the 50th anniversary of D-Day, Washington College invited Ambrose and McCullough to share their perspectives on Dwight D. Eisenhower and Harry S. Truman, the two subjects of their scholarship and writing.

In recognition of their contributions to their fields of study, Ambrose and McCullough were presented with honorary doctorates of letters during the College's Convocation, and then captivated a full-house audience with tales of World War II during a President's Forum held immediately afterward in the Casey Academic Center.

An exhibit of Constance Stuart Larrabee's World War II photographs, "Jeep Trek," added to the historic flavor of the day.

During Convocation, Stephen Ambrose recalled Dwight Eisenhower remarking in 1958 that he hoped democracy would survive "for all ages to come." A liberal arts education, Ambrose said, can ensure that it does, because the liberal arts teach people to think.

Eisenhower spoke to this theme when he visited Washington College 40 years ago, Ambrose recalled. "He



quoted Thomas Jefferson and pointed out that Jefferson said again and again that liberty can survive only when it is buttressed by knowledge. No other means can be devised to prepare each person to carry his burden and the great problem of people governing themselves. Ike went on to say: 'And today we see this magnificent young class come up before their president to receive their degrees in a far more complex age and they in turn are ready to do their part as citizens. Corollary to teaching people to think, we in the liberal arts pride ourselves most of all when we teach people to be good citizens. We teach them to be participants in a democracy.'"

The study of liberal arts, particularly history, said Ambrose, enables people to live more fully. "Men or women who go to visit Napoleon's tomb who don't know anything about the French Revolution just don't get anything out of the visit. The more you know about

*President Trout presents David McCullough with the honorary Doctor of Letters.*

who has gone before us and what they did, the more you are going to get out of life."

In his Convocation remarks, David McCullough recalled how Harry S. Truman calmly bore political hostilities in the wake of his firing of General Douglas MacArthur. Truman explained: "I know that in the long run the country and history will have judged me to have done the right thing." Essential to understanding the presidency of Harry S. Truman, McCullough said, is understanding his sense of history.

*(Right) Stephen Ambrose signs books for readers who gathered outside the WC Bookstore before the ceremony.*

History gave him the courage of conviction in his decision-making, McCullough argued. When he sent the first civil rights message to Congress in 1948, his advisers told him he would surely lose the election. "He wrote to a friend back in Kansas: 'If I lose because of this, I will have lost for a good cause.' Keep in mind this is long before *Brown vs. Board of Education*, long before Martin Luther King, at a time in fact when colored-only drinking fountains were to be seen in the nation's capital. He understood the presidency and he understood the history of the presidency and as a consequence, he knew that his time was momentary. It gave him a sense of proportion and it served as an antidote to self-importance and cynicism."

Even though Truman understood history to be important to the education of our young people, not all of our public schools today require American history courses and we are in danger of losing our sense of history, McCullough warned.

"If we lose that history, if we lose our sense of the past, then who are we? If we have no story, who are we? And why in the world should we limit our experience on earth to that very brief time which our biological clocks allow, when the great adventure, the great human story of all that has preceded us is so much larger a country than any we can explore in our own time?"

"Truman was not provincial in space and he was not provincial in time," McCullough continued. "His passion for history was lifelong. His cousin Ethel Nolan, who probably knew him

better than anybody, was once asked about the president's sense of history and she said, 'For Harry, history was never something in a book, it was a part of life.' I think we have got to return to that in the way we teach history, the way we write history, the way we bring history to television, the way we care about our own history as communities, as families, as universities and colleges. We must not tolerate the erosion and disappearance of our story and all that we owe to those who preceded us. Think what we have that we have been left by those who worked so hard, fought so bravely, did so much to create this society, this culture, our own American way of life. To be indifferent to the past, to be indifferent to American history, is not just to be stupid, it is to be rude. Our interest or affection for our story is an expression in large part of our interest and affection for our country. It is absolutely inexcusable that anyone who serves in a public office in this nation has no interest or knowledge of American history, and their numbers are legion.

"I am honored beyond measure, thrilled to be so honored at this college, at this historic place where both President Eisenhower and President Truman received honorary degrees. And I want to tell you in closing that as the president of the United States in those tumultuous years from 1945 until 1953 sat at his desk, he wanted to look up at a portrait over the mantle in the Oval Office. It was what he wanted to see when troubles were at their heaviest. The portrait he chose to

hang there was by Rembrandt Peale of General George Washington."

After the Convocation ceremonies, President Charles H. Trout, an historian himself, moderated a public discussion with the two writers. They talked at length on many issues pertaining to World War II, including the independent and free-thinking ingenuity that gave U.S. troops the edge on the bloody battlefields of Europe, and Truman's decision to use the atomic bomb to end the war. McCullough said that even given the aftermath of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, presidential advisers later had urged Truman to use the bomb again in Korea.

"To his credit, he stood firm," said McCullough. "The weight of that decision haunted him for the rest of his life."

## College Introduces Gender Studies Minor

For the past several years, faculty members have offered a variety of courses related to gender issues. In response to student interest, special topics such as "Women in Shakespeare," "Philosophy of Gender," and "Women in Business" augmented regular offerings such as "Women in the Middle Ages" and "Sex, Gender, and Kinship." Now, the College is providing these courses within the framework of a gender studies minor, with the hope that new courses will be developed and other special topics courses will become permanent offerings.

Jeanette Sherbondy, who is serving as chair of the gender studies program, says that gender is an important factor in the analysis of many fields of study. Concepts of male and female gender affect personal and business relationships, politics, the arts, and even the sciences.

The interdisciplinary minor will require two courses — "Sex, Gender, and Kinship" and "Gender in Western Civilization." The other four courses required to complete the minor course of study may be taken as electives from offerings in American studies, English, history, music, philosophy and religion, sociology and anthropology, and world literature.

"We saw the creation of a gender studies minor as a way to make the





most of coursework that already exists," says Sherbondy. "The faculty have been quite successful in mainstreaming gender issues. Kathy Mills, for instance, has made real strides in bringing women composers to the forefront, and George Shivers has included women in his Latin American writers course. For the past three years, Audrey Fessler has been leading a group of students interested in reading about and discussing gender topics. With the gender studies minor in place, some faculty have expressed an interest in adapting other courses to include a gender focus, or to create new courses with a gender focus." Courses on women in science, feminist theater, and feminist philosophy are in the offing, she says.

## College Puts Budget Back In Balance

After an exhaustive review of the College's finances conducted by administrators, faculty, and trustees, the Board of Visitors and Governors has approved a financial plan for 1994-95 that should yield a balanced current operating budget for the first time since the 1990-91 academic year.

"From a financial perspective, the early '90s have not been kind to the nation's colleges and universities," explained President Charles H. Trout. "Even the wealthiest of the Ivy League institutions have operated in the red."

The budget prepared and approved for the 1994-95 academic year resulted from a budget-cutting process that will slightly reduce the size of faculty and staff, largely through attrition; forgo pay raises to faculty and staff for a second year; reduce their health benefits; and tighten controls over all areas of College spending.

The budget approved by the trustees at their April 23 meeting is based on a financial plan that is extremely conservative in its revenue projections and rigorous in anticipating expenses. The College's budget for next year is predicated on enrolling 813 students and totals in excess of \$23 million.

"Though it has been a painful process," said Trout, "I am proud to report that by pulling together as a community, we have been able to craft a budget that should keep Washington College safely in the black in the coming year."

## Students Engage In International Affairs Through Model Organizations

It represents role playing at its best. Sophomore Steve Dashiell takes up the mantle of a Haitian government diplomat and calls for the restoration of democracy. Freshman Jessica Dindino, representing Bahrain, realizes that in order to pass a resolution calling for economic development, she needs to align herself with representa-

tives — 35 this year — to all three events, giving them an opportunity to match knowledge of their representative countries, their debating skills, and their political acumen with other college students from around the country.

Dan Premo, the chair of the political science and international studies department who runs the Model OAS program, says Washington College students match up "extremely well" with students from other universities, because they are so well-prepared and have made the personal commitment to participate. Unlike some institutions, Washington College does not offer academic credit for preparation for



*The Model OAS student delegation poses with Professor Dan Premo (left rear) and Patrick Tardieu (right front), the Haitian Minister to the OAS.*

tives of the other Gulf States. Senior Jennifer Reddish, representing Mozambique on the Liberation Defense Committee in dealings with the Front Line States, devises a strategy to secure the passing of a resolution on the need for the liberation of South Africa. The Middle East peacekeeping initiatives are at risk unless Siu-Yee Ng, the Jordanian representative, persuades Egypt, Syria, and other Arab states to support UN peacekeeping operations in the region.

This political role playing occurs at three model organizations conducted every year at Harvard University (the Model United Nations), Howard University (the Model Organization of African Unity), and the headquarters for the Organization of American States in Washington, DC (the Model OAS). For the past three years, Washington College has sent a contingent of students interested in international stud-

and participation in model organizations.

Premo and Tahir Shad, the international studies professor who runs the Model UN and Model OAU programs, begin their students' preparation months in advance of each event. They meet informally with student delegates one evening each week to discuss issues facing their representative countries and to impart as much as they can about the character of a nation — its size, the region, its political clout, its history, economy, and culture, and its allies and foes. Students also gain insight about the international affairs of their representative nations from the coursework offered by

these two professors and others who teach in the international studies program. This spring, for example, Ed Buscaglia, from the economics department, and Jeanette Sherbondy, an anthropologist with field experience in Latin America, assisted the Washington College OAS delegation.

Within the framework of all three model organizations, students deal with current issues while playing within the character of a nation. "The models simulate how diplomacy and international relations work," says

Shad, "and the students try to be as realistic as possible. Success is measured in whether students can get resolutions passed, whether they play in character, whether they align themselves with natural allies. It's good training — they learn to articulate their positions, they become familiar with parliamentary procedure, they learn about the issues, and they learn that a lot of decision-making is made outside of committee. The experience takes what they learn in a classroom and makes it very real."

## Kerr Fund Awards \$125,000 to Washington College

The Grayce B. Kerr Fund of Easton, Maryland, has awarded a grant of \$125,000 to support faculty enhancement and curriculum development at Washington College.

The grant, payable over five years, will serve as a "bridge to endowment" to fund initiatives set forth in the

## Two Alumni Help At-Risk City Youth

by Robert Bull

In the heart of East Baltimore, where children live with the menace of drugs and violence, William C. Litsinger Jr. '58 and Jonathan R. Price '80 are helping to create "The Positive Place For Kid!" Providing leadership for the Maryland Boys and Girls Clubs, Inc., a local non-profit that runs The Positive Place, these two Washington College alumni are part of a nationwide effort to reach some two million American youngsters and help them become responsible citizens and leaders.

After more than 30 years in Maryland State government, Litsinger retired to become Executive Director of this local affiliate of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America. Just a year into his new position Litsinger says, "The potential for truly making a difference in the lives of these kids is greater with the Boys and Girls Club of Maryland than with any other program I've seen in a long time."

His first priority was to prove to the East Baltimore community that the Club was there for the long haul after instability during its first few years of operation. Litsinger and his existing board recruited new board members who were willing to help with individual, corporate, and foundation giving, committee and project involvement, and participation sponsorship. In his search to develop a

diverse, activist board, Litsinger's son recommended his friend Jon Price, a Vice President for Alex Brown & Sons, Inc. in Baltimore. Before Price officially joined the board he served on the Resource Development Committee and was able to attract a local accounting firm to do a *pro bono* audit for the Clubs. He now chairs the Finance Committee.

The Baltimore organization's primary niche is with children, ages six to eighteen, in City public housing projects. It also operates a program called Crossroads for youngsters referred by the juvenile justice system — a system in which Litsinger worked for 26 years. "Our programs take the help and services to

on- and off-site recreational activities, and educational field trips. More than 500 children belong to the Clubs, paying just \$2 a year to belong.

The Boys and Girls Clubs provide after-school hours and in the summer, camping for the younger children. To take part in the daily recreational and leisure-time activities, members must first participate in "Power Hour" — a time designated for homework, tutoring, and other educational activities. "Education and knowledge are power," says Price, who eagerly supports this part of the Clubs' daily schedule.

The Boys and Girls Clubs of America have made a difference in the lives of millions of young people from urban and rural areas. Neil Diamond, Brooks Robinson, Shaquille O'Neal, Jack Kemp, and many more familiar names can be found among the lists of Boys and Girls Club Alumni nationwide.

While the national movement grows, Litsinger says, "If we can turn one kid away from drugs or delinquency, or if we save one kid from the often random violence in our city, all of our hard work will certainly be well worth it."

"Of course," adds Price, "we have our own heroes here — my fellow volunteer board members, and Bill and his staff who really care about these youngsters."

For more information or to find a Boys and Girls Club in your community, contact Jon or Bill at (410) 276-5521 or write to them at 1621 Bank Street, Baltimore, MD 21231.



Bob Litsinger '58 and Jon Price '80 are making a difference in the lives of inner city children through Boys and Girls Clubs.

the kids, where they live. We don't wait for the kids to come to us," says Litsinger. The Clubs offer homework assistance and tutoring, computer access, positive leisure time activities,

College's recently-adopted Long Range Plan. These initiatives include strengthening the freshman year experience, integration of living and learning in campus residences, development of additional off-campus study opportunities, and support for new courses.

Two principal goals undergird the Long Range Plan, which was approved by the Board of Visitors and Governors in February. Over the next ten to twelve years, as funds permit, the College intends to expand to 1,150 undergraduates with proportional growth in the size of the faculty. In addition, the plan places considerable emphasis upon strengthening all academic programs through increased opportunities for active student involvement in learning.

"Investment in faculty and curriculum is vital to the achievement of these goals," President Charles H. Trout noted in response to the grant. "By making this award, the Grayce B. Kerr Fund has placed a significant imprimatur on our Long Range Plan, and I am delighted."

The College intends to raise \$750,000 in endowment within the next few years to sustain the faculty enhancement and curriculum development initiatives stimulated by the Kerr Fund's benefaction.

## Middle States Team Evaluates College

The Evaluation Team representing the Middle States regional accrediting agency took thorough stock of the state of Washington College during the course of three days of on-campus interviews in early March. In a preliminary report before their departure, the evaluating team relayed their initial impressions. The full, written, report will be shared with the College community in May.

In comments to the Washington College community, Dr. Tom Kessinger, president of Haverford College and head of the Middle States Visiting Team, commended Washington College faculty and administrators for their hard work in the accreditation process, evident in the hefty document produced by the self-study. He also commended as outstanding several college endeavors, notably the aca-

demical computing program and the O'Neill Literary House, as well as the College's evident commitment to diversity. In citing areas where improvement is needed, Kessinger pointed to a need for assessment and planning within departmental units and for additional funding for Miller Library. Kessinger encouraged College officials to move quickly to enroll to current capacity and achieve budgetary equilibrium. Kessinger posited that this would put the College in a position to expand to 1,150 students, as called for in the Long Range Plan.

"The Middle States process has been arduous but worthwhile," President Trout commented. "In the main, I think our visitors came away with an understanding of the institution. I have no doubt that we will be re-accredited, and that the Middle States recommendations will help set our agenda for some time to come."



## French Professor Publishes, Lands NEH Grant

Amy Smiley, assistant professor of French, plucked two plums from the world of academia this spring — a French publisher released her volume of literary criticism of the novels of the 20th-century French writer, Louis Aragon, and the National Endowment for the Humanities awarded her a summer stipend for independent research in Tunisia and France.

In her book — *L'écriture de la terre dans l'oeuvre romanesque d'Aragon* — Smiley proposes a new critical approach that focuses on the comparison

of writing with the labor of the earth. This poetics of the earth is considered as a dynamic of creation. Images of the earth evoking life and death, invention and destruction, love and loss, and exile and return have a direct affect on Aragon's prose, says Smiley. "It is as if the page itself were transformed into a garden."

Smiley's research project is an outgrowth of her doctoral studies (conducted at the Université de Paris VII) on another contemporary French writer, Philippe Soupault. Smiley will be exploring Soupault's work at Radio-Tunis, which he established and directed from 1938 to 1940. Soupault's position at this station stemmed from his commitment to fight fascism during the pre-War years and World War II. Smiley will be investigating the complex relations between two historically coincident struggles in Tunisia — one anti-fascist and the other anti-colonial.

## Board Implements Tuition Increase

The Board of Visitors and Governors in February approved a \$1,324 increase in tuition and fees to \$15,276, while holding room and board charges constant at \$5,318, bringing the total student fees for the 1994-95 academic year to \$20,594. This represents a 6.9% increase in the comprehensive fee. At this level the College is still below the median of the group of comparable national liberal arts colleges.

In announcing the figures to students and parents, President Charles H. Trout noted that the College is maintaining its strong commitment to financial aid and will bring its budget into balance by cutting expenditures.

"In making these reductions," President Trout said, "a guiding principle has been to avoid cuts that will directly impact students. In fact, with a number of maintenance projects scheduled in our dormitories, students are likely to see positive developments in residential life. Like countless corporate and educational institutions in the United States, Washington College is committed to being as efficient as we can possibly be, and that determination is reflected by 'right-sizing' the College in proportion to the number of students we currently serve."



# Student Chemists Present Research at Conference

by Brian Coleman '94

The Washington College Chemistry Department embarked on one of its most ambitious ventures in recent years as four professors and five students from the department traveled to the 207th American Chemical Society National Meeting in San Diego, California, in mid-March. Since the week-long meeting coincided with Spring Break, students took advantage of the opportunity to share research findings and teaching techniques with chemists from around the country.

The five students — C. Brett Kopay, Tiffany Altizer, Maria Jerardi, Brett M. Showalter, and Brian D. Coleman — presented results of their 1993 summer research in the Student Affiliates poster session co-sponsored by the American Chemical Society's Committee on Education. The students received funding for the trip from the Charles H. Trout Fund for Undergraduate Research and the Society of Junior Fellows.

Washington College faculty were also in force in San Diego. Dr. Rosette M. Roat presented her most recent findings in a poster entitled: "1H NMR Studies of Platinum Complexes in Reactions with Nucleobases." Dr. James R. Locker presented a poster entitled "Arson Analysis: Introduction of Gas Chromatography into the General Chemistry Curriculum," which outlined an experiment he developed. Dr. Frank J. Creegan delivered two twenty-minute talks in the chemical education division — "A discovery-based approach to  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  reactions in introductory organic chemistry" and "Melting point, boiling point, and intermolecular forces: Making connections." Dr. Gene G. Wubbels also delivered a paper in the physical organic chemistry section. His talk, "Brønsted catalysis law plots for general-base catalyzed Smiles rearrangements," encompassed research that he completed last summer.

The conference offered plenty of activities for undergraduates. Students participated in roundtable discussions, mock interview sessions, symposiums, and short courses. Brett Showalter and Maria Jerardi, for instance, at-

tended an introduction to "Molecular Modeling" using sophisticated software mounted on microcomputers. The ACS Undergraduate Programming Task Force scheduled recreational events as well, including a volleyball tournament at Coronado Beach, social mixers, and an awards program and reception.

Among the highlights of the conference for the WC contingent was meeting Professor T. C. Ichniowski, the chairman of the Undergraduate Programming Task Force. Ichniowski, who graduated from Washington College in 1955 and now teaches chemistry at Illinois State University, was excited to meet the Chestertown delegation. "I jumped out of my chair for joy when I saw that WC was among the schools attending," he said.

## Beacham Prize Is Awarded For Student Fiction

Thane Glenn '94 is the recipient of the College's first Vervan Beacham Prize, given in recognition of excellence in writing. Glenn's short story, "The Lion's Cage," was selected as the winning manuscript by Michael Mott, a writer who teaches at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia.

The Beacham Prize, supported by Walton and Deborah Beacham of Beacham Publishing, was established to recognize undergraduate writing that reflects both the liberal arts tradition and the importance of language in

the expression of ideas. The Prize is named for the Beachams' daughter, who was graduated in 1992.

"When Vervan majored in philosophy and history, it became obvious that the College's prizes recognizing good writing were geared to students of literature," says Mr. Beacham, a former English professor who went to graduate school with Robert Day, professor of English and director of Washington College's O'Neill Literary House. "By establishing this prize we are encouraging students to strive for excellent writing, no matter what discipline they are studying. We hope the prize will acknowledge to faculty and students that good writing, as well as good ideas, will be rewarded."

The Beacham Prize also takes advantage of the letterpress printing facilities at the College — the winning manuscript each year will be published by the O'Neill Literary House in a numbered, limited edition.

"The Lion's Cage," judge Michael Mott said, is a skillfully constructed story of childhood, told with the impressionistic perceptions of a child. In his story, Glenn explores "the dark corners of childhood" that lend shape to the adult psyche. "There are things children don't understand, fears and misconceptions children experience, that stay with them as they grow up," says Glenn. "I believe that no matter how careful a parent is, some damage to a child's psyche is inevitable. And life is a paradox — humans are driven to be connected to other people, yet independence is also inevitable. 'The Lion's Cage' tries to make some spiritual sense of that."

## Four Faculty Promoted

President Charles H. Trout recently announced the promotion of four Washington College faculty. Ruth C. Shoge, a reference librarian, and Jeanette Sherbondy, in the sociology department, were promoted to the rank of associate professor. Rosette M. Roat, in the chemistry department, and Richard DeProspero, chair of the American studies program, were promoted to the rank of full professor.

Dr. Shoge, who also received tenure, came to Washington College as a visiting assistant professor in 1990 from Upsala College. Her position in Miller



Thane Glenn '94

Library was made permanent in 1993. A Phi Beta Kappa student at Howard University, she continued her graduate studies at the School of Library Service, Columbia University, received her master's degree in 1974 and her doctorate in 1982. She has successfully advocated bibliographic instruction in her work in the library and has done scholarly work on the ethnic aspects of library collations. In 1990, she contributed a major annotated bibliography to a book on sources for AIDS education.

Dr. Sherbondy came to Washington College in 1986 as assistant professor of sociology and was tenured in 1991. She received her undergraduate degree in Latin American studies from Indiana University and her doctorate in anthropology from the University of Illinois. Her fields of specialization include Andean culture, Inca ethnohistory, Inca myth, ritual, symbolism, political and economic organization, the ethnology and cultural history of Latin America, and the anthropology of Western Spanish irrigation and agricultural practices. An active scholar, she has published widely and received a Dumbarton Oaks Fellowship in 1991-92.

Dr. Roat came to Washington College in 1983 as assistant professor of chemistry. She was promoted to associate professor in 1988 and has served as department chair since 1992. Phi Beta Kappa at the University of Pennsylvania, she received the master of education, master of science, and doctoral degrees at the University of Delaware. She has developed a strong research program in the chemistry of platinum (II) and platinum (IV) compounds and recently completed two-year grants from the Research Corporation and the Petroleum Research Fund of the American Chemical Society. She made important advances in her platinum work during her sabbatical leave in 1991-92 at Leiden University in the Netherlands and has continued her work with students during the summer months.

Dr. DeProspero came to Washington College in 1975 as an assistant professor of English. Promoted to associate professor in 1984, he has been chair of the American studies program since 1988. He received his undergraduate degree from Yale and his master's degree and doctorate from the University of Virginia. He has several publications to his credit.

## Students' Poems Accepted For Publication

Student writers can find encouragement and incentive to publish in many forms at the O'Neill Literary House — workshops with visiting writers and editors, late night coffee sessions with their peers, the new Beacham Prize, and now, the Rejection Slip contest. The Rejection Slip Contest, sponsored by the O'Neill Literary House, pays monetary prizes to the three students who accumulate the greatest number of rejection slips. It is a ploy, says Literary House Director Robert Day, to encourage students to get their work published.

The contest backfired on Katie Degentesh and Tanya Allen, two Washington College students whose poems have been accepted for publication in well-known national poetry magazines.

Katie Degentesh, a junior English and philosophy major with a chemistry minor, sent out two poetry submissions in her quest for rejection slips, only to have her sonnet, "Fixing," accepted for publication in the SPSM&H supplement of *Amelia* magazine, published in Bakersfield, California.

Degentesh, who has been writing poetry seriously for only a year, says she "lucked out" when she sent her first submission off to one of the top ten magazines noted in *Poets & Writers*. "I certainly didn't expect to get accepted," she says, "but I wouldn't have even submitted my work if it hadn't been for the Rejection Slip Contest."

Degentesh hopes to hone her writ-

ing skills at a Writers' Workshop in Ireland this summer. She has been accepted to spend two weeks in Dublin under the tutelage of writers Sue McEhanna, Jim McAuley, and Evean Bolland.

"I want to continue writing poetry, but I don't want to get tangled up with an MFA program," says Degentesh. "I do want to go on to graduate school in philosophy, or maybe even medical school. I just found out I have enough credits to be premed!"

Tanya Allen is an old hand at poetry submissions — she has been published in two national undergraduate magazines, the *Wittenberg Review* and *Cymbals*; in the Connecticut opinion pages of *The New York Times*; and in a textbook called *Real Toads in Imaginary Gardens*. She also took second place in *Lyric* magazine's college poetry contest. This spring, she submitted one of her series of poems about produce to *Genre*, a college journal of poetry and prose that was planning a special issue on food. Produce Poem #2 was accepted for publication.

A senior English major concentrating on creative writing, Tanya says she sees more undergraduates submitting their work for publication than ever, regardless of the Rejection Slip Contest. Fellow writers often come to her for advice about where they might submit their poems.

"As a senior, the best advice I can give a freshman is to submit his or her work, beginning with the small magazines. College is a good place to begin to deal with failure and acceptance. Sure, if you submit a poem to the *New Yorker*, you're likely to experience failure, but there are plenty of small magazines out there looking for good work."



Katie Degentesh '95



Tanya Allen '94

Allen, who comes from a family of writers, plans to earn her master's degree in creative writing and then land a job teaching at the college level. She has been granted a teaching assistantship at Miami University in Ohio.



## Alumna Is Named Editor At Hopkins

**S**ue De Pasquale '87, former Sophie Kerr Prize recipient and frequent contributor to the *Washington College Magazine*, has been named editor of *Johns Hopkins Magazine*, circulation 100,000. De Pasquale has served on the *Hopkins Magazine* staff since 1990, first as assistant editor and, more recently, as managing editor.

"I love the variety and intellectual challenges that come with being editor at a major research university," says De Pasquale. "Last issue, for example, I had to immerse myself in subjects ranging from 1830s French history, to the latest breakthroughs in robotics, to the challenges of establishing a non-profit sector in Eastern Europe. Needless to say, my Washington College training in the liberal arts has been invaluable."

After graduating from Washington College, De Pasquale earned a master's degree from Columbia University's School of Journalism.

De Pasquale is the second Washington College alumna to serve on the staff of *Johns Hopkins Magazine*. Mary Ruth Yoe '73, now the editor of the *University of Chicago Magazine*, served as associate editor at Hopkins from 1980-83 and then as editor of Hopkins' Alumni Magazine Consortium.

## Gene Hessey Retires

**G**ene A. Hessey, Washington College's senior financial officer, is bringing his career to a close this June.

A native of Fostoria, Ohio, Hessey joined the college administration under President Daniel Z. Gibson in 1970 as treasurer and business manager. In 1976, College President Joseph McLain appointed him Vice President for Finance. He was promoted to Senior Vice President of Management and Finance by President Douglass Cater in 1989.

Hessey, 60, has been responsible for the fiscal and operational management of the physical plant, food service, the bookstore, central services, administrative computing, accounting, and student financial aid program at Washington College. During his tenure, endowment has grown from \$2.6 million to \$30.4 million, enrollment has grown from 600 to 850, and plant additions valued at approximately \$30 million have been made. The manner in which the physical plant is maintained — through building endowments, for instance — also has been improved significantly. He oversaw the successful completion of public funding through a bond issue, and was also instrumental in the implementation of a new administrative computing program.

"I believe it is fair to say there has been no member of the administration more trusted, or better liked, than Gene Hessey," said College President Charles H. Trout. "Through difficult times when bad news had to be delivered, and during years when the fiscal outlook has been brighter, he has assiduously and humanely safeguarded the interests of Washington College and those who have worked here."



## Kelley's Cove

More than 100 faculty, staff, students, and alumni honored Maureen Kelley McIntire with a contribution toward the construction of a student center in Hodson Hall. At the dedication ceremony on Washington's Birthday weekend, the students surprised the Dean of Students, shown here in the game area, by formally dedicating The Cove in honor of Maureen Kelley McIntire.

## In Memoriam

ALEXANDER C. DICK  
1902 - 1994

**A**lexander Colclough Dick, a long-time Chestertown physician who provided medical care to Washington College athletes for four decades, died January 17, 1994. He was 91.

Dr. Dick, who trained in surgery at Union Memorial Hospital in Baltimore between 1931 and 1935, was the first surgeon to practice medicine at Kent and Queen Anne's Hospital. He followed Dr. Harry Simpers in 1947 as unofficial doctor to athletic teams at Washington College, which in 1988 inducted him into its Athletic Hall of Fame. He retired from medical practice in 1987.

In addition to his wife, Dorothy, Dr. Dick is survived by daughter Nancy M. Dick, a public health nurse and former women's lacrosse coach for Washington College, two sons, and four grandchildren.

# Thanks to Sean O Connor, Those Who Can, Teach

by Sue De Pasquale '87

Professor Sean O Connor could not help but feel proud on Commencement Day last year, as he sat listening to the names of the College's newest graduates being called. Of the seven students who graduated at the top of the Class of 1993 with the distinction *summa cum laude*, five had completed — or were close to completing — the requirements of the Education Department, which O Connor heads. "These are people at the top in many ways, who had access to money because they could have chosen any profession they wanted," says O Connor. "But because they have some quality of idealism within them, they chose teaching." There is no question in his mind that they made the right decision. "Parents and teachers are just about the most important people in our society," he says, his voice rich with the musical lilt of his native Ireland. "Teaching is a noble, a dignified..." he pauses, eyes twinkling, "yes, perhaps even a magical profession."

O Connor makes a convincing case. In fact, it is in large part due to his persuasive personality that the Education Department has grown in size and stature since he joined the College in 1978. These days the program sends out more than a dozen new teachers each year to secondary school classrooms throughout Maryland and beyond. Throughout this period of growth, O Connor has remained the department's only full-time faculty member. He is joined by Rachel Scholz, who is coordinator of field experiences, and by several part-time instructors, including Steve Kinlock, a 1980 graduate of Washington College and its Education Department. A social studies teacher at St. Michaels High School, in Talbot County, Maryland, Kinlock commutes regularly to Chestertown to teach a special methods course.

To be sure, Washington College was in the practice of training teachers as far back as the 1890s, when most of the women who enrolled belonged to the "Normal" program, as teacher education programs were then called. But by the time O Connor came on the scene nearly a century later, teaching had fallen out of favor, both in Chestertown and throughout the country. Nearly half of the teaching education programs in the nation's liberal arts colleges had been closed down. Many that remained were languishing.

The distinction between liberal arts teacher education programs and those at universities — in which students major in education and focus much of their coursework on teaching methods — is a crucial one, O Connor notes.

Washington College teachers-to-be must complete all the regular requirements of a major course of study — English, history, chemistry, for in-

*"We see our students as people capable of working far beyond their own disciplines. By making connections to other disciplines, learning becomes more real, more alive."*

—PROFESSOR SEAN O CONNOR



PHOTO: J TYLER CAMPBELL '76

*Sean O Connor shares his passion for teaching with his students.*



stance — as well as necessary education courses and field work. That makes for a heavy load; in addition to courses such as Principles of Teaching and Educational Psychology, participants must spend time during three separate semesters out in the schools — elementary, middle, and special education — working as aides and tutors. Such coursework and field experiences are integrated throughout the four-year liberal arts program, rather than tacked on as a separate, additional fifth year, as at some colleges and universities.

Because of the additional work, about three-quarters of those in the program take longer than the traditional four years to finish; most end up returning an additional semester after earning their B.A. or B.S. to complete their nine-week student teaching internship and coursework, known as the "Ed Block."

"Sean and I are on the road constantly during this period," says Scholz, formerly an assistant superintendent of schools in Berkeley, California. "We observe each student in the classroom approximately once a week, and we work closely with them and their cooperating teachers. Because our students are placed in so many different Maryland counties, we log a lot of miles."

For every three students who begin the teacher education program at Washington College, just one follows through to earning his or her teaching certification. "It takes commitment and sacrifice," says O Connor.

Today, liberal arts colleges produce less than seven percent of the nation's teachers. But liberal arts proponents — and O Connor is a very vocal one — contend that liberal-arts-trained teachers emerge with a depth of knowledge and an aptitude for critical thinking that are crucial to educating successfully this country's schoolchildren. "We see our students as people capable of working far beyond their own disciplines. By making connections to other disciplines, learning becomes more real, more alive," says O Connor, who has served as coordinator of the Maryland Association for Small Teacher Education Programs, which counts Goucher College and Johns Hopkins University among its members.

"I argue that we make a very significant contribution," he says. "Not to have us represented out there in the

firmament of education would be a bloody loss."

O Connor both practices and teaches a "total self" approach to educating students. "In education, sadly, we tend to create boxes that we try to fit children into, instead of thinking about kids — their needs and their characters — and then fitting education around them," he says. "I believe in approaching each student as an individual. You start with their experiences and find out what motivates them."

Teacher education graduates speak of O Connor with affection, using terms

tial, O Connor is reluctant to let go. Just ask Sean Kennedy, who graduated in 1989 with a degree in political science. Kennedy had completed several courses in the Education Department but decided to put teaching on hold. He signed on as a personal aide to Maryland Senator Barbara Mikulski and spent the next two years accompanying her to meetings and chauffeuring her around the state.

"After a while, I knew I didn't want to make a career out of government work, so I quit my job with the Senator and became a bike messenger,"



PHOTO: LOUIS ROSENSTOCK

like "mentor" and "friend" and referring to him by his first name. He takes a personal interest in every student, they say, and he somehow manages to make them see teaching through his eyes — as the finest, most honorable, most important calling out there.

When he spots a student with poten-

Kennedy explains. "Then, one day, just at the exact time I was thinking about what I should do next, Sean called me up. He had heard I was between jobs, and he told me he thought I should pursue teaching again." O Connor's appeal worked. Kennedy returned to Chestertown, completed the Education

Block, and now teaches history at St. Michaels High School. His classroom is just across the hallway from that of social studies department chair Steve Kinlock '80, whose guiding credo is, "We shouldn't be telling students what to think, but instead how to think."

Each May, those students beginning the Education Block remain at the College during Senior Week to engage in what O Connor describes as "a very freewheeling set of exercises" — everything from improvisational drama to elocution. The rather non-conventional three-day program serves as their introduction to the world of teaching that begins the following fall.

"We found ourselves doing foolish things — dancing, singing, playing make believe, dressing up, talking in

*"I find myself drawing from everything I've ever done — even from my business and math courses at Washington College."*

—KAREN HINSON '88

various accents," recalls Mikki Senn '93, who worked as a parole and probation officer for more than 12 years before becoming a teacher. The idea, Senn says, "was to learn how to be uninhibited, and to learn to see yourself as others see you."

O Connor carries this approach through to other Education courses as well. Senn says that throughout their fieldwork O Connor would encourage her and her classmates to "reflect" — to ask themselves, What worked? What didn't work? What did this mean to me? "Some of my classmates found this annoying at the time," says Senn. Now in her first year of teaching social studies at Perryville High School in Cecil County, MD, Senn says she has come to find this process of self-evaluation to be "automatic and absolutely vital."

"I constantly hear Sean's voice in my head asking, 'What do you think? What went well? What didn't go well?' A first-year teacher needs to be looking at these things continually," she says. "He was training us to be our

own reflectors, our own coaches."

O Connor sums up his approach this way: "I try to think of the teacher as being an intellectual, and as being a citizen," he says, then adds, "I don't want the teacher to be like the pilot of a plane that's on automatic."

Indeed, in the brief profiles that follow, you'll meet three recent graduates whose approach to teaching is as far from being on "autopilot" as you can imagine.

## BLURRING THE LINES BETWEEN DISCIPLINES

Karen Hinson '88 majored in history at Washington College and earned her teaching certification in social studies. Yet her first major teaching assignment took her to two remote Eastern Shore Islands, where she lived and taught environmental science classes under the auspices of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF).

"You had to be willing to get your toes muddy and your hair wet," recalls Hinson of her three-and-a-half year stint. She was one of just two teachers based on the rugged and sparsely populated Smith and Tangier Islands. The CBF program brought middle and high school students to the islands for three-day periods, to live and learn about the Bay's ecosystems, conservation, history, and the lifestyles of local watermen. "The goal is to expose kids to the Bay and its problems so they appreciate it and are therefore propelled to take action to help," she explains.

Hinson taught all year round (except the month of December, when the Bay usually freezes), taking her young charges out in canoes to do marsh studies, and conducting interviews with watermen. "For some kids, it was the first time they had seen a blue crab," Hinson says. "Other kids had eaten bushels of crabs, but they had no idea where they came from." Since the goal was "low-impact living," students could take just one shower during their stay; after meals, Hinson had them weigh the leftovers on their plates so they could see just how much food they were wasting.

She says she loved her work, though it was not quite what she had originally planned on doing. "I think I took two science courses in college, one in astronomy, the other in conservation," she says. "I came in having to learn everything myself. And I did. I read ev-

erything that I could, and I talked to everybody I could."

Eventually, she felt it was time to leave the isolation of the islands and head into the classroom. Last fall she found her "dream job," when she earned a much sought after position teaching social studies at Baltimore County's new magnet high school for science and technology, in Catonsville.

To Hinson's delight, the Western School of Technology and Environmental Science features a "fully-integrated curriculum," which means that teachers of all subject areas work together to cover different aspects of a similar topic. For instance, in social studies Hinson is currently teaching a ninth grade unit on economics. Her colleague in the science department will concurrently cover environmental issues pertaining to economics, while in math, students will learn statistical principles. Hinson has worked closely with these teachers to avoid overlap and ensure linkage. "The idea is for the kids to see that economics isn't just a principle, and it doesn't just happen in social studies," she says. "For all that this approach is very new, it's also very classical."

Unlike more traditional high schools, classes at Hinson's school last for 90 minutes. This provides teachers with much-needed planning time (Hinson gets between one and two planning periods each day), but it also requires them to be more creative, in order to hold student interest. Fortunately, she says, that is not difficult. "The kids are very animated. For the most part they're all very motivated and want to be here."

The 27-year-old has found herself drawing on her experiences with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. "All the classes we teach must have an environmental twist to them, and technology must be infused," she explains. "For me, that's easy. I've got it coming in everywhere." In her tenth grade world history course on ancient Greece, for instance, her class looks at how geography affected that country's development. "What affect did soil content have? What was the environmental impact of war?" Later in the year she plans a unit on the development of technology; with her ninth graders she will focus on the Chesapeake Bay.

Hinson credits her liberal arts grounding for getting her through.

"Sean builds from a philosophical basis, so that no matter what subject you're teaching, you're learning about yourself, and other disciplines, as well as your own discipline," Hinson says.

"I find myself drawing from everything I've ever done — even from my business and math courses at Washington College. Especially with the big push in education today being more holistic and interdisciplinary, you find yourself needing to know what's going on around you, not just in your own little discipline."

### WHY SHORTCUTS AREN'T THE ANSWER

If there's one thing that Chris Santa Maria '85 is sure of, he says, it's that "the homogeneous classroom is dead."

"In any given classroom you'll find underachievers, overachievers, lower-income students, and higher-income students — students with standard abilities as well as those with learning disabilities and attention deficit disorder (ADD)," says Santa Maria, a social studies teacher at Harriton High School outside of Philadelphia.

He, for one, could not be happier.

"I'm not set in my ways and I never intend to be set in my ways," he says. "Whoever they send into my classes, I'll teach. It's going to be more challenging that way, but also more interesting. There's nothing worse, to me, than teaching for 30 years in a static environment."

In order to reach students of such differing abilities, Santa Maria frequently relies on "portfolios." He starts by setting goals that the entire class should reach by week's end, then designs individualized plans so that each student can progress at his or her own pace. "Students can then work independently on tasks that have been custom-shaped according to their abil-

ity," he explains. Since grades are so important to these college-bound students, he says, "Assessing each portfolio is a craft in itself. You have to try to be fair and uniform."

Santa Maria also relies on the strategy of cooperative learning, in which he carefully groups slower students with those who are more accelerated, then gives them an assignment to complete together. The quicker students reinforce their own knowledge by helping their classmates to master the material. Thus, he has found that both groups benefit.



PHOTO: J. TYLER CAMPBELL '76

The former history major has also been known to design his own curriculum. Before coming to Harriton High last February, Santa Maria taught for more than seven years at the Valley Forge Military Academy, a boarding school for middle and high school-age boys. There he created a tenth-grade course called "American Cultures," which traced various themes — democracy, race relations, women's rights — throughout the scope of American history, from Plymouth Rock to modern times. "They soaked it up," he says.

Though happy at Valley Forge,

Santa Maria found he could not support a family on private school wages, so he turned to the public school system. He found a crowded market in the Philadelphia area, with 200-300 applicants vying for each social studies spot. When he saw an ad in the newspaper last winter for a long-term substitute at Harriton High, he jumped at the opportunity. There were no guarantees that it would turn into anything more, so the decision was a bit of a gamble. "I told them, 'Give me a chance. You'll want to hire me,'" Santa Maria recalls. "They offered me a full-time position by late March." He and

*"It would be easy to lower my standards and cut the amount of time I put into it. But Sean O Connor always impressed on us how absolutely important what we are doing in the classroom is to the future of our society."*

CHRIS SANTA MARIA '85

wife Cindy were thrilled.

An avid geography buff (his Washington College thesis combined geography and history in looking at Maryland's decision not to secede during the Civil War), Santa Maria has been asked to coordinate a Geography Bee for his school district. He works hard to incorporate geography into his U.S. history and American government courses, and he also puts a special emphasis on writing.

"What I find very distressing is that I've seen writing skills slowly dropping off in the eight years I've been teaching," he says, citing faulty grammar and spelling, poor sentence structure, and illegible handwriting. "I'm one of the few teachers in my school, outside the humanities, who still gives essay tests. The kids don't appreciate that. In fact, they get annoyed when I circle their punctuation errors — they'll say 'Hey, this isn't English class!'"

He continues, "Even my own colleagues are not thrilled that I do it.

They prefer giving out multiple choice tests that are taken with a #2 pencil," he says, because "you can slide the answer sheets through a machine and get them graded quickly."

Santa Maria concedes that it takes considerable time (two to three hours each evening, in fact) to grade essay tests. And to design individual portfolios. And to come up with new lesson plans. "It would be easy to lower my standards and cut the amount of time I put into it," he says. "But Sean O'Connor always impressed on us how absolutely important what we are doing in the classroom is to the future of our society."

"If I take shortcuts and I don't give teaching everything I can," he says, "I'd be cheating something much greater than the school district."

## WHEN RAP PAVES THE WAY FOR POETRY

When Veda Gresser Mitchell '89 walks into her English classroom, she faces many students who are well beyond high-school age. Mitchell teaches at the Harbor City Learning Center in downtown Baltimore, an alternative high school aimed at students who have not succeeded in more traditional high school settings.

"Many have had attendance problems in the past and have been dropped from the school rolls," she explains. "Some have taken a leave of absence due to pregnancy and are now coming back. Others have found themselves on the wrong side of the law and have been strongly encouraged to return to school — otherwise they'll go to jail." The average age of the 700 or so students who attend Harbor City is 18.

Mitchell has been teaching at the center since she graduated from Washington College in 1989 with a degree in English. "I was thrown in," she recalls. "They told me, 'Here's your classroom,' and they gave me a collection of books and told me to 'Go for it.'" Because many of her students simply do not want to be there, she finds her biggest challenge is get-

ting them interested and motivated. Fortunately, she says, "My school is not afraid of trying new things. I can structure my own class — I don't have to copy what's going on in another teacher's classroom."

To get her students writing, Mitchell provides them with incomplete stories about young people dealing with contemporary urban problems such as pregnancy and drug use. After reading the story aloud, each student goes on to write a conclusion. "It makes them realize that education isn't just learning about people who have problems

American writers — works by Toni Morrison and Langston Hughes, as well as those by lesser known writers. "I've found that many of our students are unaware of how far their own culture has gone," she says. One anthology of works by African-American high school students is a particular favorite, she says, because "many of the things my students read about involve issues with which they come in daily contact."

Not every subject is so well received. For instance, Mitchell says she's found that "poetry doesn't fly well." Her so-

lution? Assign students to write a poem that can be put to music, in the form of rap. "That way they realize that music and rhythm and beat is also a form of poetry."

Says Mitchell, "I try to be as creative as possible. Sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't." Every trimester she tries different approaches, throwing out the strategies that didn't work before and modifying the ones that did. "Teaching is not a nine to five job," she has found. "You have to be very dedicated and not mind coming home and making dinner and then sitting at your desk for three hours to plan."

Recently she decided to go back to school herself. She is working on a master's degree in publication design at the University of Baltimore. Her Harbor City students benefitted from her newfound knowledge this semester, when she began teaching a new class in journalism. Her aim is to have her class put together a small newspaper by course's end.

The freedom and encouragement she has to pursue such projects is what keeps Mitchell excited about her teaching assignment. "Harbor City is a very creative and innovative place. I really like it here," she says. "For now, this is where I want to be."

*Sue De Pasquale, a frequent contributor to the Washington College Magazine, is the editor of Johns Hopkins Magazine.*



PHOTO: LOUIS ROSENSTOCK

*"They told me, 'Here's your classroom,' and they gave me a collection of books and told me to 'Go for it.'"*

—VEDA GRESSER MITCHELL '89

that they'll never face," she says. "And they end up learning to write without realizing it."

Similarly, in her literature classes she focuses on contemporary African-

# WC Makes Its Mark In New Centennial Conference

*Photographs and Text by Trisha McGee '81*

Imagine, if you will, an all-sports conference that nurtures spirited competition in the classroom as well as on the playing field.

Welcome to the Centennial Conference.

Washington College — along with 10 other charter member schools — is nearing completion of its first year of Centennial competition. Shore athletes — both men and women — have proven to be worthy conference opponents in 13 varsity sports, while at the same time maintaining the high standards of a rigorous liberal arts curriculum.

It surely must have been this commitment to the importance of the total educational experience of student athletes that led the former Centennial Football Conference to expand to an all-sports conference beginning with the 1993-94 academic year. The original CFC schools included Dickinson, Franklin & Marshall, Gettysburg, Johns Hopkins, Muhlenberg, Swarthmore, Ursinus and Western Maryland. Bryn Mawr and Haverford — joining Washington — were extended charter membership into the expanded all-sports Centennial Conference. The Centennial name was retained because all of the schools are more than 100 years old.

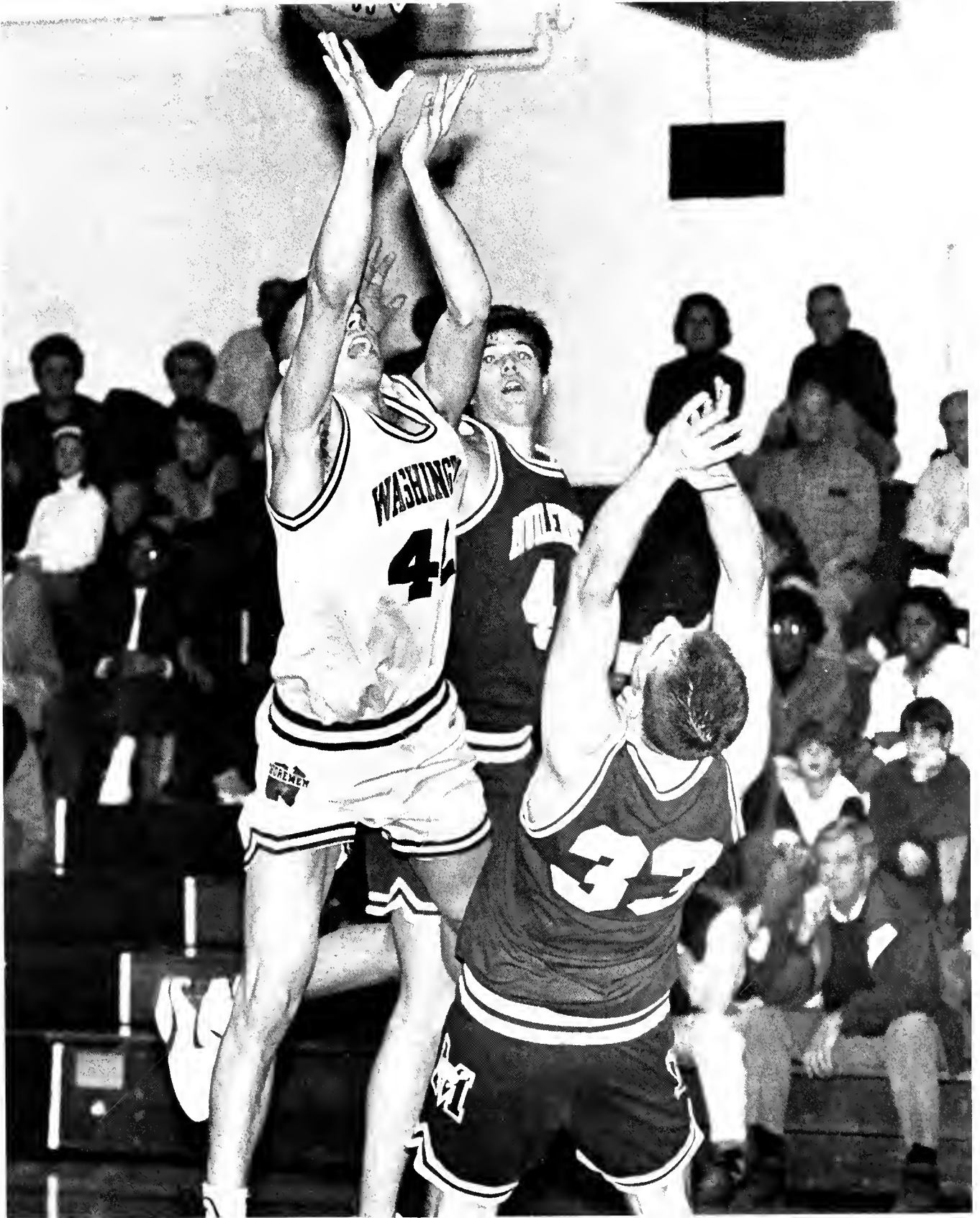
Before joining the Centennial Conference, ten of the eleven schools (Bryn Mawr is the exception) had held membership in the Middle Atlantic Conference almost since that conference's inception in 1912. The MAC, with 26 member institutions, was the largest conference in NCAA Division III.

Its size and diverse educational philosophies led in 1981 to the breakaway of the eight core Centennial schools to form a football conference. The schools shared "similar attitudes and practices," according to Keith Spalding, then president of F&M. Because of their success in operating the separate football conference, the CFC presidents formed an ad hoc committee in early 1991 to study the possibility of an all-sports conference involving the original eight schools. The presidents received a positive report from the committee in March 1992, with the additional recommendation that three schools — Washington, Bryn Mawr, and Haverford — be invited to join as charter members.

The Centennial Conference member institutions have the latitude to maintain relationships with other schools for scheduling and the perpetuation of traditional rivalries. The move out of the MAC and into the Centennial was, most Washington College coaches agree, a most prudent decision.

"It's the only place we could go," says long-time coach Edward L. Athey '47, who had served as the school's athletic director for nearly 40 years before stepping down in 1987. Athey, who continues to coach baseball, says a splintering of the MAC almost occurred a decade ago, when he was conference president, over the creation of the separate football conference. "We had a real donnybrook in the MAC," Athey recalls, "as to whether





*Freshman Derek Cuff (42) came off the bench to score 188 points—fourth highest on the team.*

we wanted this group to stay with us. There was always the sense that the group (the CFC) would eventually pull out. We had to follow. Otherwise, we'd have been left out in the cold. We would have had to travel a great deal for conference opponents. Why, Widener, in Chester, Pennsylvania, would have become our closest opponent."

Athey believes Washington was wise to move into the all-sports Centennial. There is a certain appeal to competing against Swarthmore, Gettysburg, Franklin & Marshall, and Johns Hopkins — both for the quality of their athletic programs and their emphasis on scholastics.

The all-sports Centennial, says Athey, who has coached everything but wrestling here on the Hill, gives Washington the opportunity to once again compete regularly against F&M, Gettysburg, and Muhlenberg — reviving old rivalries. Those schools were in a separate division of the MAC.

"The competition is going to be tough," says Athey. "But, heck, it was tough in the MAC."

Athey's advice to his fellow coaches at Washington? "I don't think we should be afraid of anyone," he says. Current athletic director Geoff Miller agrees that the move into the Centennial was a must for Washington College. "We had to be there," he says. "The new conference was going to rip the best academic teams out of the MAC and, athletically, it's the cream of the crop."

A new conference alignment has not come without its drawbacks — conference dues are higher because there are fewer schools to share costs. In theory, this is offset by the shortening of traveling distance and the elimination of playoffs for all sports but basketball. Washington, also, has been hurt by its small enrollment and comparatively limited athletic offerings.

Washington's enrollment is one-half the student body of F&M or Gettysburg and one-third the size of Johns Hopkins. Even the all-female Bryn Mawr has an undergraduate enrollment of 1,200.

Washington offers 15 varsity sports — eight women's sports and seven men's sports, including men's and women's crew, which do not compete within the Conference. Bryn Mawr fields the fewest number of teams with eight. Gettysburg and Western Maryland offer a conference high 23 total

sports — 11 each for women and 12 for men.

All the Centennial schools have at least one sport in which they excel. For example, Swarthmore has a nationally ranked badminton team and Haverford is competitive in men's cricket. Washington College is a conference power in men's tennis, and has a crackerjack rowing program. But the overall athletics strength enjoyed by Gettysburg, Hopkins, and Franklin & Marshall is unparalleled, concedes Geoff Miller.

The Centennial Conference is espe-

more distinction attached to being a member of the Centennial Conference, she says — a fact not lost on recruits.

Being a member of the Centennial Conference carries weight, says Laneé Cole, the women's basketball and softball coach at Washington. She adds that one of the perks of playing in the Centennial is that everyone's level of play is improved by the competition. "Personally, I want that challenge," says Cole. "That's one of my goals — to do well and be recognized. That will come only with a lot of hard work and promoting Washington College, which



cially competitive for women and is arguably among the elite in Division III. "For women, it is very tough," agrees swimming coach Kim Lessard. For example, ten Centennial women qualified for Division III nationals, representing six of the eight Centennial schools that have intercollegiate swimming. Four went on to earn all-American distinction. In comparison, no women from the Middle Atlantic Conference swam fast enough for nationals.

The level of competition in the Centennial is a notch above, says Lessard, who has now completed her sixth — and probably most rewarding season — at Washington. In terms of athletics as well as academics, there is





just as a Shore opponent —for the time being will have to do for Feyerherm, who believes Washington's athletic successes are linked ultimately to its success in promoting the college and its athletics programs.

And, Feyerherm says, it certainly does not hurt that the College's men are almost untouchable in tennis and lacrosse. "We can ride on their coat-tails for a time," she says.

So how has Washington fared in its first year in the Centennial?

"I'd give us a high grade," says Geoff Miller, Director of Athletics. "I think we've exceeded our expectations."

Foremost among the athletic teams' accomplishments were their performance in the classroom.

Forty-nine Washington athletes were Dean's List students, maintaining a grade point average of 3.4 or higher in the fall. Another 54 students were on the College's honor roll for grade point averages of 3.0 or better.

Most notably, the women's swim team, which went 0-7 in conference competition, received College Swimming Coaches Association of America all-academic honors for the second time in three years. Bryn Mawr and Washington College were among the 29 Division III teams to be recognized. They were the only Centennial Conference schools to be named to the honor roll.

How have Washington teams fared on the field? As might be expected, it's been a season of successes, surprises, and occasional struggles.

"We've done very well in men's basketball (13-12 overall, 7-6 conference), women's basketball (11-13, 7-8), men's swimming (8-2, 4-2), and volleyball (26-16, 6-3)," says Geoff Miller.

The Shoremen made great strides in soccer this fall, fashioning a 7-9-3 overall record.

Women's field hockey and lacrosse programs found only limited success in the initial year of Centennial competition. Washington hockey was winless in nine conference games and finished 3-9-1 overall.

Washington's men's swim team engineered an 8-2 campaign that culminated in a dramatic second-place finish at the conference championships. In the final event of an exhausting three-day meet, Washington's foursome swam a school best 3:16.81 in the 400-yard freestyle relay to nose out



*(Top, left) Attackman Bart Jaeger's father, Bruce '66, was a 3-time All-American in lacrosse at WC. Bart has been Centennial player of the week. (Above) Co-captain Peggy Bowman (white jersey) was the anchor of the Shore defense as center halfback. (Left) Side-tackling Will Merriken takes the ball off the shoe tip of a Gettysburg opponent. (Far left) Keith Whiteford is the ace of Ed Athey's pitching staff.*

is part of our job as coaches."

"We have to do a better job of promoting ourselves," says Sarah Feyerherm, coach of the women's field hockey and lacrosse programs. "I think we will really benefit when we get the word out. A lot of it is name recognition. Kids from the Philly and

South Jersey areas haven't heard about us but they have heard about Haverford and Gettysburg — although they are farther away than Washington."

The name recognition of a Hopkins or an Ursinus (a three-time national champ in women's lacrosse) — if even

Franklin & Marshall for the coveted runner-up slot behind prohibitive favorite and runaway champion Gettysburg.

The biggest surprise of the year came from the women's basketball team, competing in their first season of varsity play. The Shorewomen won five of their last six games to finish 11-13 overall, third in the East Division of the Conference with a 7-8 mark. The middle-of-the pack finish was predicted by Coach Cole, who points to the Shorewomen's youth and inexperience and the infant stage of the basketball program.

"From what I'm getting from my colleagues around the conference, we came out with a bang," says Cole. "And we'll be a contender next year already. That's exciting for me and the players. But we still have a lot of work to do. It won't come overnight," she says. "And sometimes that is difficult to accept, especially when success is measured in wins and losses."

Shoremen cagers, under interim coach Mike Hart, advanced to the conference semifinals, losing 72-71 to eventual champ Franklin & Marshall — at one point the No. 2 ranked team in the country. Ben Harris (Alexandria, VA) was considered by many to be the best freshman basketball player in the conference. Senior Geoff Rupert (Sykesville/South Carroll) became the 24th player in school history to eclipse the 1,000-point milestone.

The spring athletic season, still under way at the time of this writing, features two of WC's powerhouse teams.

The Shoremen knocked off conference opponents Dickinson, Swarthmore, and F&M in lacrosse while rising in the top ranks of the Division III polls. Johns Hopkins, although a Centennial school, plays Division I lacrosse and has been beaten by Washington only once in a series that dates to 1965. The big test for

Washington lacrosse came against Gettysburg, which beat Washington College for the MAC crowns in 1992 and 1993. Gettysburg's win streak against the Shoremen continued this spring with an 18-12 victory, putting the Shoremen's chance of a Centennial Championship very much in doubt.

Men's tennis in the Centennial Conference, more so than any other sport, is dominated by Washington College. The Shoremen — ranked among the nation's best since 1986 — have not lost to a conference opponent since 1985. They won eight straight MAC crowns, and that streak continued in the Cen-

Polla is ranked No. 24.

Gray, a Washington graduate who captained that first conference championship team in 1986, says the move from the MAC to the Centennial was "on the whole for the College a great move." For men's tennis, however, Gray sees little competition. He would like an exemption to play a schedule outside the conference that allows for nationally-ranked opponents. This already has been done for Swarthmore.

The Centennial, however, is very competitive for women's tennis. Washington won the 26-school MAC crown in 1991 and received its first-ever bid

to nationals the following year. In 1992, the MAC was represented at the NCAAAs by three schools — Washington, Swarthmore, and Franklin & Marshall. All are now playing in the Centennial.

In other spring sports, the Shoreman record is more mixed. Coach Athey anticipates Washington's baseball team finishing in the middle of the pack behind heavily favored Johns Hopkins, Gettysburg, and Haverford. The women's softball team was 5-11, with two conference wins by late-season.

"As much as we enjoy winning, Division III athletics is about much more

than that," says College President Charles H. Trout. "I consider athletic competition among liberal arts colleges simply another area in which students can strive to excel. That is why membership in the Centennial Conference has been such a boost to our athletics program. We are peer institutions sharing a common philosophy that puts emphases on scholarship, ambition, and working for the good of the team. Those attributes will last a lifetime."

*Trisha McGee '81 frequently covers WC athletics for the Kent County News where she is the associate editor.*



*Megan McCurdy scored in Washington's first 10 games, and leads the club in total points through 12 games with 26 goals and 11 assists.*

tenial. Washington blanked Dickinson, 9-0, to win the school's first Centennial championship.

"We beat a good team," coach Tim Gray said of Haverford, which finished last year ranked in the top 25. Washington's men are ranked No. 3 in the country in Division III and No. 1 in the South Region. Freshman Robin Sander is the No. 10-ranked singles player in Division III and Damian

# The Patty Cannon Gang: Kidnappers of Free Blacks

by Professor Carol Wilson

As history has shown, free blacks of the antebellum period were not truly free. White communities dictated where free blacks could live, what jobs they might have, and where and when they might travel. What independence free blacks did enjoy was tenuous at best. Blacks who had purchased their freedom through hard labor, who had been freed by their white owners, or who were born outside the bonds of slavery still lived in peril of abduction. The pernicious threat of slavery lurked in the unknown — the job offer or promise of food might be a trick, the friendly black woman a decoy, the strange white man a slave trader.

Carol Wilson, an assistant professor of history at Washington College, examines this “grey area between slavery and freedom” in her new book, *Freedom at Risk: The Kidnapping of Free Blacks in America, 1780-1865*. The book, published by the University Press of Kentucky, chronicles details of the “other” underground railroad that trafficked free blacks into slavery.

The following excerpt from Wilson’s volume tells the story of some of the most notorious kidnappers of that period. Patty Cannon and her band terrorized communities of free blacks from Philadelphia to Mississippi and sold hundreds of black men, women, and children into slavery. The gang eluded legal authorities for so long because the Cannon homestead happened to straddle the border of two states.

The legend of Patty Cannon is well-known throughout Delaware and Maryland. Numerous accounts of her life exist, some of them outright fiction, others a mixture of fact and fable. Cannon has been the subject of several books, including George Alfred Townshend’s *The Entailed Hat* (1884), R.W. Messenger’s *Patty Cannon Administers Justice* (1926), and Ted Giles’s *Patty Cannon: Woman of Mystery* (1965). Most of the books, as well as newspaper and magazine articles about her, use as their major source a pamphlet published in 1841, *Narrative and Confessions of Lucretia P. Cannon*. Although the author is unknown, and there is some doubt as to the veracity of the work, some of the story it tells is certainly true. Patty Hanley (her name before marriage) was described in the *Narrative* as “an uncommonly agreeable person and by no means bad-looking, though rather large. She was extravagantly fond of music, and dancing, a great talker, very witty and fascinating in her conversation, and concealing her real character so well that [her future husband, Alonzo Cannon, a wheelwright from Lower Delaware] . . . soon fell in love with her.” This is an unusual depiction of a woman who died in a Delaware prison in 1829 while awaiting trial for several murders, including that of a baby she killed by throwing it into a fire.

♦ ♦ ♦

The extent of the Patty Cannon Gang’s activities was fully revealed in 1826 in a kidnapping case that involved some two dozen victims from Pennsylvania to Mississippi. These abductions brought notoriety to the gang when Joseph Watson, the Mayor of Philadelphia, made them his personal crusade. Evidence of the kidnappings first surfaced when Joe Johnson’s



brother Ebenezer stopped at the home of John Hamilton, a planter in Rocky Spring, Mississippi, and offered three boys and two women for sale. One of the boys told Hamilton that he and the others were not slaves but had been stolen from Philadelphia. Hamilton sent for a justice of the peace, who questioned Ebenezer Johnson. Johnson produced a bill of sale for the blacks, but agreed to let them remain at Hamilton's until this proof was verified. Johnson then left, supposedly to obtain further evidence of his ownership. Meanwhile, the alleged slaves told their stories to Hamilton.

Samuel Scomp, at about age fifteen the oldest boy, was an indentured servant from Princeton, New Jersey, who had run away from his master. He went to Philadelphia, where a mulatto calling himself John Smith offered Scomp work unloading a ship. On board, Scomp encountered Joe Johnson, who tied Scomp's hands, put irons on his legs, and threatened to kill him with a knife if he made any noise.

A second boy, Enos Tilman, about nine years old, told Hamilton that he had been an apprentice in Philadelphia when he was lured aboard the ship and chained by Smith. Another Philadelphian, Alexander Manlove, related a similar story. Mary Fisher, a free black woman from Delaware, explained that she had been gathering wood near the state border in Elkton, Maryland, when she was attacked by two men who took her to Joe Johnson's house. She said that a kidnapped boy called Joe had died on the journey to Mississippi. Another boy previously with them, Cornelius, had apparently been sold in Alabama. One woman among the group was a slave who had been legally purchased.

In his letter to Philadelphia Mayor Joseph Watson, John Hamilton's lawyer, John Henderson (later U. S. senator from Mississippi), suggested that if the statements of these unfortunate blacks proved accurate, they should be published so that "the coloured people of your city and other places may be guarded against similar outrages." He added that he had no doubt as to Johnson's guilt. Henderson's belief was certainly correct, but he probably never imagined that he had helped uncover one of the largest mass kidnappings in Ameri-

can history.

Apparently Watson followed Henderson's advice and publicized the incident, as the mayor received several letters in the next few months concerning the activities of the Cannon Johnson gang. Delaware's Attorney General, James Rogers, described his earlier attempts to bring the Johnson brothers to justice, and offered any information or assistance Watson requested. A Wilmington abolitionist, Thomas Garrett, provided information about one of the victims, known as Mary Fisher. He stated that he had read about the blacks' plight and believed the woman to be Charity Fisher, a Wilmington resident who had recently disappeared. Garrett added that he would continue to follow the case and asked Watson to keep him apprised of any new developments. Jesse Green, of Concord, Delaware, wrote that Ebenezer Johnson had just returned from a slave-selling trip in Alabama and had resumed kidnapping blacks in the area. James Bryan of Cambridge, Delaware, also offered information of the Johnsons and stated his belief that half of the suspected fugitive slaves on the peninsula were actually kidnapping victims taken by Johnson's "emissaries," who worked the field from Philadelphia to Accomak, Virginia. They numbered some thirty men, "as desperate as Johnson." Bryan also placed some of the blame on the Delaware legislature, which he claimed was more concerned with recovering runaways than with liberating kidnapped free blacks.

As a result of the publicity given to the incident, the gang's black confederate, John Smith, was located. A resident of Georgetown, Delaware, Thomas Layton, wrote to James Rogers informing him that Smith had been seen in the area and was using the alias

Spencer Francis. In response, a Philadelphia constable was sent to investigate.

In Mississippi, John Hamilton had examined the documents relevant to the case, concluding that the slaves offered for sale by Ebenezer Johnson had in fact been kidnapped. Hamilton contacted Mississippi authorities. The state's attorney general, Richard Stockton, wrote to Mayor Watson at Hamilton's request and notified him that everything was being done to effect the return of the victims to their homes and the prosecution of the kidnappers. Although Mississippi was a slave state, Stockton assured Watson, "There is no community that holds in greater abhorrence that infamous traffic carried on by negro stealers." He added that no other state made it easier for those held illegally in slavery to gain their liberty.

In June, a deposition was taken in the Philadelphia mayor's office from Samuel Scomp, who had returned to the city with some of the other blacks after spending several months at Hamilton's plantation. Scomp's statement confirmed and elaborated upon the account he had given to John Henderson in Mississippi. After John Smith had lured him on board a ship docked in Philadelphia, Scomp was secured in the hold with two other boys, Enos Tilman and Alexander Manlove. They said that they had been abducted the night before, also enticed aboard by Smith. Two more boys were brought to the ship later that day, Cornelius Sinclair and the ironically named Joe Johnson.

That night the ship sailed. In a week, it landed near the kidnapper Johnson's house along the Delaware-Maryland border, where the captives were confined in an attic. They were later moved to the Cannon house and chained there for about a week. There, two women, Mary Fisher, a free woman from Delaware, and Maria Neal, a slave, joined them. The whole group was then transported by boat to the Deep South; Scomp was unsure exactly where they landed. The victims were forced to walk through Alabama, where they were offered for sale.

Cornelius Sinclair was the first to be sold, bringing four hundred dollars in Tuscaloosa. The rest were forced to walk on to

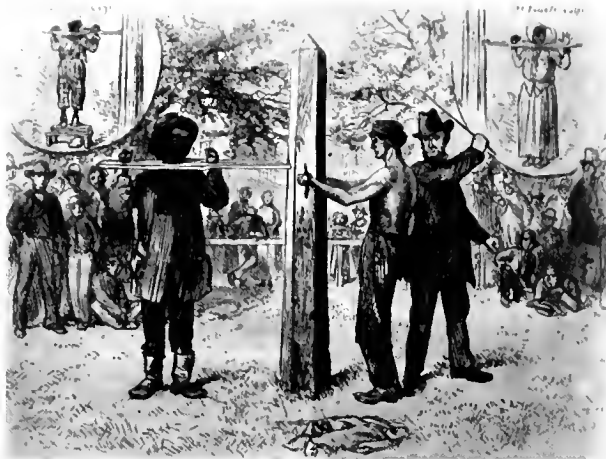


Mississippi, where they finally stopped at Rocky Spring, site of John Hamilton's plantation. Scomp estimated that they had traveled about thirty miles each day on foot and had received a severe whipping if they complained. When Scomp tried to escape, he was beaten "with a hand saw and with hickories" by Ebenezer Johnson. The deposition noted that an examination of Scomp's back confirmed the beatings.

About seven miles outside Rocky Spring, the boy called Joe Johnson died from the beatings and from frostbite of the feet. At Hamilton's, all but the slave Maria Neal were taken in and cared for. After several months, the planter obtained passage for them to New Orleans, from where they sailed to Philadelphia. Mary Fisher, who did not want to travel by sea, remained at Hamilton's.

Philadelphia's Mayor, Joseph Watson, kept the Pennsylvania Abolition Society informed of his ongoing investigation. In July, William Rawle, PAS president, received word from Watson that Ebenezer Johnson had been arrested for possessing the body of the boy who had died on the journey. Watson reported the return of most of the victims and added that Cornelius Sinclair was expected to arrive shortly. The Grand Jury of Philadelphia County issued indictments against Ebenezer and Joe Johnson, John Smith, and Thomas Collins, another gang member. Warrants for their arrest were forwarded to Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Alabama, and Mississippi. Watson also told the PAS that he had forwarded documents that supported the victims' statements.

But the case did not end there, for the activities of the Johnson brothers exceeded the scope of the initial reports. In December 1826, evidence of another kidnapping by the gang surfaced. David Holmes, governor of Mississippi, and Joseph E. Davis, lawyer and state legislator of Natchez, notified Watson of the story of Peter Hook, a slave in Mississippi. In a deposition recorded by lawyer Duncan S. Walker, Hook revealed that he had been kidnapped in Philadelphia in June 1825 one night when a black man named John invited him to a ship near the Arch Street wharf for a drink. On



board, Joe Johnson took him below, tied him up, and chained him to a pump. Two others, William Miller and Milton Trusty, were brought down the same night and chained with Hook. Clement Cox and William Chase, two more kidnapping victims, arrived the next night. After several days, the ship sailed, and eventually all the victims were taken to Joe Johnson's house, where they were shackled in the attic. Several more victims arrived over the next few days — John Jacobs, a cart driver, James Bayard, a sweep, Benjamin Baxter, "little Jack," Ephraim Lawrence, "little John," and Henry. All were boys except Henry, who was a young man.

Two girls, Lydia Smith and Sarah (Sally) Nicholson, were chained in a different part of the attic. According to Hook, the entire group remained at Johnson's house for about six months and were then taken to Rockingham, North Carolina, and were sold. Hook reported that they were severely beaten when they asserted their free status. Two other black men, Staten and Constant, who said they had been abducted from Philadelphia, joined the group near Rockingham. Miller and Sutler, slave traders, purchased the blacks from Johnson and sold them at various points. Hook was sold to a man named Perryman in Holmesville, Mississippi, along with three of the other boys.

In January 1827, Mayor Watson thanked David Holmes and J.E. Davis for the information they had added to the state's case against the Cannon-Johnson gang. He told them of the gang's other kidnappings and explained that he hoped "to develop the mazes of this infernal plot, by means of which, a great number of free born

children, during several years past, have been seduced away and kidnapped, principally, and almost wholly as I believe, by a gang of desperadoes, whose haunts and head quarters are now known to have been, on the dividing line between the states of Delaware and Maryland, low down on the peninsula, between the Delaware and Chesapeake bays."

Warrants for the arrest of the Cannon-Johnson gang had been issued in several states. Watson had found white witnesses who could identify three of the boys,

although he recognized the difficulty of getting whites to testify to the identity of the blacks, especially after so much time had elapsed. The city council of Philadelphia authorized the mayor to issue a five-hundred-dollar reward for information leading to the arrest and prosecution of anyone involved in the kidnappings of 1825. The council also provided five hundred dollars to the mayor for expenses incurred in the investigation. This proclamation was issued to newspapers the following day. Watson advised Duncan S. Walker, the Mississippi lawyer working to secure the freedom and safe return of the victims, "to leave no stone unturned" in his efforts to help the blacks. The Philadelphia mayor clearly followed the same policy himself.

Walker brought freedom suits for five of the blacks. His brother, Robert J. Walker, also an attorney, investigated the circumstances of the six whose whereabouts were unknown. Duncan Walker sympathized with Watson. "I can appreciate the difficulty you anticipate, of indentifying black children, by the evidence of white persons," he wrote. "But however onerous it may be on all hands, we must do our duty." It seemed surprising that Walker, a southerner, would expend so much effort to assist people of color. Yet he was sincere: he refused any fees for his services, despite Watson's offer of compensation, and he assured the mayor, "Our soil affords no stone for building Penitentiaries, but our forests supply gallows for the kidnapper; while our laws protect slave property, they will restore the free." Walker also sent the statement of another of the victims, Lydia Smith of Delaware. An indentured servant, she had been

shunted among numerous masters for many of her twenty-three years. Her last master, Bill Spicer, had been jailed for attempting to sell her as a slave. When he was released, he sold Smith to Ebenezer Johnson for \$110. Chained for about five months in the home of Johnson's sister, Smith there encountered Ephraim Lawrence, John Jacobs, and little John. They were eventually taken to Rockingham, North Carolina.

Watson then asked James Rogers, attorney general of Delaware, if he could "obtain depositions as to the general infamous character of these kidnappers." The Philadelphia grand jury would be sitting in March, and Watson believed that the Johnsons would be indicted for kidnapping. He planned to ask Pennsylvania Governor John Schultze to demand the Johnson's extradition from Mississippi and to make arrangements for the children's return. Watson had no doubt that they had all been kidnapped. In fact, he believed that most of the kidnappings that had occurred over the past ten years in the mid-Atlantic region were the work of the Johnson brothers, whom he characterized as "very desperate ruffians, and utterly infamous."

The Cannon-Johnson family managed to avoid apprehension, however. As a Delawarian, Jesse Green, reported in March 1827, the Johnson brothers had returned to Patty Cannon's home in Delaware and planned to resume their kidnapping operation, with blacks "to assist and decoy." Stating that "the poor Free Negroes feel much alarm at their return," Green added that while he would continue to provide authorities with any information he could, he was too old to offer any other help. He also wanted his name kept secret for fear of the gang's revenge.

That same month, a Natchez, Mississippi, newspaper editorial spoke out against the kidnappings: "Policy, as well as humanity, requires that our citizens take every measure in their power to assist in restoring these unfortunate beings to their homes, and their families." Despite the tone of most of the editorial, however, it claimed that "for the most part free negroes are the worst description of people that could ever be willingly brought among us." The extensive laws passed by Mississippi and other

southern states reveal an intensive attempt to prevent free blacks from entering their borders and to control the existing black population. Perhaps the efforts of southern citizens to return the victims of the Cannon-Johnson gang to their homes were an indication not of sympathy for fellow human beings in trouble, nor of obedience to anti-kidnapping laws, but of the desire to expunge a group of people they viewed with distaste and fear.

Southerners nonetheless played an important role in restoring kidnapped free blacks to their northern homes.



Joshua Boucher of Tuscaloosa, for example, labored to secure the release of Cornelius Sinclair, who had been sold by the Johnsons to James Paul of Tuscaloosa and who was suing for his freedom. Early in 1827, Boucher informed Watson that Sinclair had been declared free by the court, "which has afforded not a little pleasure to many of the benevolent of this place." Boucher wanted to bring to Watson's attention the case of another Philadelphia boy held illegally by Joe Johnson, namely Jacob Simon, called Charly, enslaved in an adjoining Alabama county. He had been abducted in Philadelphia in April 1825, and taken south by Johnson. Boucher offered his help with any future kidnapping cases.

Residents of the Upper South were also working to gain the blacks' freedom. Delaware abolitionist Thomas Garrett, who had become involved in the case as soon as he had knowledge of it, provided proof of the free status of another victim, Sarah Nicholson. Nicholson's case was especially poignant, as Garrett summed up: "Her eyesight is nearly gone, and . . . she can be of but little value to her master and

perhaps he would be glad to get rid of her, if he could do it without involving him in further expense."

Watson sent a constable from Philadelphia, Samuel Garrigues, to Louisiana, where he secured the liberty of two other boys taken by the gang, Clement Cox and Ephraim Lawrence, and promised that Sarah Nicholson would soon follow. However, difficulties were encountered in the other cases in obtaining "strictly legal proof—that is to say, the evidence of white persons in open court." This was a common problem. Even though there

were witnesses to the crime, many kidnapping cases were lost in court because of the inadmissibility of black testimony in cases involving whites. Even when white witnesses were available, they were frequently reluctant to testify. Fear of retribution and racism prevented many whites from testifying in cases of kidnapping, which usually involved a black plaintiff and white defendant.

Ironically, when members of the Cannon-Johnson kidnapping ring were finally brought to justice, it was not for the crime of kidnapping. In fact, few of the gang were ever convicted of that offense.

• • •

The issue of kidnapping illuminates not only the lives of free blacks but also the mindset of the country as a whole.

Was the tacit acceptance of kidnapping by the majority of the white population another method of control, a further reflection of the fact that, while the idea of slavery may have caused whites some discomfort, the free black population caused even more? The toleration of kidnapping was a way for whites to enslave free blacks without admitting that they were doing so. At the same time, the ever-present threat of kidnapping provided a constant reminder to free blacks that even though they were not slaves, they were nevertheless black, and the autonomy they possessed could be stolen from them at any moment.

*Carol Wilson's book, Freedom At Risk: The Kidnapping of Free Blacks in America, 1780-1865 is available at the Washington College Bookstore.*

# ALUMNI REPORTER

## Mardi Gras Ball Is Success

Washington's College's Birthday Ball has undergone many transformations since a dance to commemorate the president's birthday was first held in Hodson Hall in 1965, but none more elaborate than this year's Mardi Gras Masquerade Ball, hosted by a student organization known as Mystic Krewe.

Taking their name from the Louisiana society that first planned Mardi Gras in New Orleans, WC's Mystic Krewe wanted this Birthday Ball to be an extravaganza. It was, thanks to sophomore Carey Hargrove, chair of the decorations committee, and his fellow student organizers, as well as Jeff Vahlbusch, professor of German, who acted as master of ceremonies.

Hargrove's family is in the party business — they are famous for decorating Donald Trump's New Year's Eve parties and the Inaugural Balls and parades in Washington. Hargrove, Inc. donated the use of their elaborate floats and decorations, a gift valued at \$60,000.

Organizers presented their profits — more than \$1,000 — to President Trout.

*Elizabeth Russell Thibodeau '36 was presented with the 1993 Alumni Service Award during Washington's Birthday celebrations. A luncheon in her honor reunited Betty (third from right) with classmates and long-time companions Carolyn Jewell Strangman '36, Hilda Ott Micari '36, Mary Woodland Westcott Gould '37, Jean Fletcher, Pat Ingersoll '71, Carrie Schrieber '38, and Martha Friel.*



*Chairman Louis L. Goldstein '35 was crowned King of the Mardi Gras. Winning the random drawing for the Ball Queenship was Lisa Athey '96. They were joined on the dance floor by more than 1,000 people.*

## Alumni Gather For First Caspersen Cup in Baltimore

The first Caspersen Cup Race, pitting two Maryland private schools who benefit from the Beneficial Hodson Trust, got underway from the Baltimore Rowing Center in early April as members of the Baltimore Alumni Chapter cheered on WC's boats.

Even though Johns Hopkins rowers won more races, Washington College won the greater number of points, thanks to the strong showing of women rowers at the finish line.

Organizers, including Johns Hopkins coach, Steve Perry '80, hope to make the Caspersen Cup Races, named for Finn Caspersen, Chairman of the Hodson Trust Fund, an annual event.

The Beneficial Trust is a long-time benefactor and a supporter of scholarship endowments at both colleges.



PHOTO: KENT COUNTY NEWS

# CLASS NOTES

**'25** Rebecca Brown Owens celebrated her 90th birthday at a dinner in her honor hosted by the Charlotte County Council on Aging in Florida, where she has been a strong force in developing services for the elderly. She established the Council 18 years ago, and continues to be active in that endeavor.

**'34** Omar Carey and his wife, Marie, are living at Indian River Colony Club in Melbourne, FL. They go north in the summer to their condo in Salisbury, MD. They recently sold their 1852 Federal-style home, Simplicity, in Princess Anne, MD. The house had been in the family for 75 years.

**'36** Charles R. Berry recently exhibited his miniature carvings of wildfowl at the Chestertown Fire Hall. Charlie has won ribbons at shows around the country. His carvings were exhibited in November at the Alumni Reunion Most Fowl at the Ward Wildfowl Museum in Salisbury.

**'39** Charles Anderson has been appointed District Emergency Coordinator for the five western counties of MD for the Amateur Radio Service.

**'40** Margaret Spry Cadell and her husband are moving into a condominium in St. Michaels, MD, after living for 50 years in Catonsville, MD. They hope to enjoy the slower pace of Eastern Shore living and being near their only grandchild.

Milton Glock's daughter, Elizabeth Glock Hughes, received her Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Political Science from Georgia State University in May 1992.

**'42** Robert E. Carter is still working part-time and managing a few "vacation-type" trips per year. His youngest son, Jeff, was married this year. Robert "expects" more grandchildren in 1994.

**'44** Leslie Callahan was accepted into West Point after one year of study at WC. Upon graduation in 1944, he was commis-

sioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the Coast Artillery Corps, and served on active duty until 1969 when he retired as a Colonel. In addition to attendance at service schools, he earned an MS (EE, 1951) and a Ph.D. (1961) from the University of Pennsylvania under Army sponsorship. During his Army career, Dr. Callahan served in a succession of command and staff assignments. Since 1969, he has been a member of the faculty of the School of Industrial and Systems Engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology. He retired from active teaching in Aug. 1985, and is currently serving as a consultant for several programs. In 1990 Dr. Callahan received the Signal Corps' highest award — The Silver Order of Mercury.

Robert A. Ruff, Jr. served in the Army for two years after graduation in the 20th Armored Infantry Division. In 1946 he entered the insurance field and worked with New Amsterdam Casualty Co. until 1951, when he entered the agency business with Poor, Bowen, Bartlett, and Kennedy, Inc. He worked his way up to become part-owner and vice-president, then retired on his birthday, June 30, 1985. He is married to Betty Blackway and they have three children and five grandchildren.

Betty Lohmuller Van Allen was a housewife and mother of four as well as the President and co-founder of Northwest Paper Box Manufacturers in Portland, OR. She has also worked with Zeta Tau Alpha as a national officer. Last year she moved to San Diego where she enjoys tennis, swimming and the company of Bill Nagler '42.

**'46** Celeste Pigg Herbert reports she got a "real thrill" from snorkeling off Cozumel and Akumal in Mexico. She says that she hasn't worried about identifying all of the colorful fish, but just marvels at them.

**'47** Elmer Thomas spent 18 months in the Pacific with the Seabees during WWII, then returned to graduate in 1947 and marry Mildred Powers in 1951. Since then, he has designed a number of feed mills, a

foundry, a snuff plant, a mechanical experimental lab, and his own home. He and Mildred have also been part of a musical endeavor named "The Tempos." After he retired, Elmer traveled to Europe, Turkey, Israel, Egypt, and Greece.

**'48** John Sutton and his wife Ellie have retired and are living in Salisbury, MD. Please telephone 410-219-2664.

**'49** Joan Sawyer Huber established a landscape design and installation company, "Patio Patch," in 1991. She was a certificate student at George Washington University in Landscape Design. Joan is still active in real estate and is the "happy Gramma of 4," with all five of her children grown-up and off on their own careers.

**'51** Alexander "Sandy" Jones is now in his 28th year as a member of the Board of Visitors and Governors at WC and as Chairman of the Legal Affairs Committee and member of Academic Affairs Committee. He is also a member of the Executive Committee. In 1986 he retired from his practice as a "country lawyer" and moved to Chestertown.

**'54** Ellsworth Boyd recently contributed an article about Aruba in the Travel section of the Baltimore Sun. He is a freelance writer.

**'55** Andrew J. Dail retired to Sun City, AZ, in 1991 and is looking forward to the 40th reunion in 1995.

August F. Werner worked 37 years for CIGNA Insurance Co. and retired as Manager of their New York City computer operation. He has recently moved to Florida.

**'56** Kay Cossaboon Ayres has won three consecutive Centerton Women's Golf Association Club Championships.

John Richey is still enjoying the role of a tourist in England. He even enjoys the weather.



**'58** Jack Schroeder was recently the guest speaker at the Eastern Shore Writers' Association. Combining his skills as a wildlife artist and an illustrator of literary works, Jack spoke on the subject of "Art and Writing."

**'59** James H. Scott III and his wife, Judy, are beginning their fourth winter in the Boston area. Both are working at John Hancock, "with several years to go until we can retire to North Carolina." They plan to return to Washington College in May for their 25th Class Reunion.

**'60** Agostino Matthew "Mickey" DiMaggio has been inducted into the La-crosse Hall of Fame's Class of 1993.

**'61** Lydia Harvey and Tony Cameron are living in Orinda, CA. Tony is now with Kemper Securities as Branch manager of their San Francisco Office.

**'62** Dianna Dibble '65 and Dr. Robert Leitch celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary in September with a three-week trip to Provence and Southern France where the couple hiked, climbed, visited old friends, and collected recipes for Diana's cooking school. Bob is a licensing and technology transfer manager with DuPont Agricultural Products with re-

gional responsibilities for Japan and the Americas.

**'64** Barbara Butz Coles is a producer for NH Public Television newsmagazine. She will be remarried in May and is enjoying being a grandmother.

John Miller resides in Washington, DC, with his wife and 12-year-old daughter. College was followed by a master's degree in city and regional planning, the Peace Corps in Brazil, model cities in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas, back to Washington, into the U.S. Agency for International Development, and to Ecuador for two years. For the last 11 years, his consulting work in urban development and housing has taken John on several trips a year.

Ronald E. Smith is a Professor and Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Southern California School of Medicine. He is currently the President of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the organization of the country's 18,000 ophthalmologists.

Nancy Sanger Townsend is a medical technologist by profession, which she says has been a "financial lifesaver." She says that her passion, however, is horses. She has been divorced once and happily remarried,

with two healthy and delightful children, now in college.

**'65** Peggy Warner continues to enjoy teaching French in the Upper School at McDonogh School near Baltimore. She takes occasional trips to France "for inspiration and renewal." Her 24-year-old daughter, Amy, is also teaching.

**'69** Steve Amick, Delaware State Representative, has announced his intention to run for the Senate seat held by Sen. Jim Neal, saying the decision would allow him to fully represent his old neighborhood. Neal does not intend to seek re-election.

Judith Coombs Buinicki and her husband, Martin, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in September. Their daughter, Meridith, is graduating with a degree in English from the University of Northern Colorado this spring. Their son, Marian, will graduate the following year with a degree in musical theater. Their youngest, Kate, is a sophomore at the University of Colorado, Boulder, studying percussion performance.

**'70** Sigrid Ben-Avi Balmer has been happily living in London since 1973 with her husband and two daughters, now aged 6 and 9. She trained and worked as a veterinary nurse, and, after her "at home with

## Marriages

Mary V. Silakowski '75, to Joseph Thomas Hayes, M.D., M.P.H., on February 19, 1994.

Gorton P. Lindsay '79 to Christina Lee Truax, on October 31, 1992.

Daniel Charles Barbieri '81 to Dawn Marie DellaVecchio, on October 9, 1993.

Cathy Leahy '82 to Tom Harrison, on May 30, 1992.

Sarah Motycka '83 to William M. Foster, on August 14, 1993. Kara Beal Osborne '82 and Debbie Kole Schlette '82 were in attendance.

R. Todd Rowley '86 to Maureen Frances Schaefer, on November 6, 1993. Attend-ants included Jack Robinson '86 and his wife Kristin.

John Flavin '87 to Beth Berger, on October 10, 1993. Shaeffer Reese '87 was an attending groomsman.

Kristen Kosak '88 to Mark Darwin '86, on November 6, 1993.

Jeanne Marie King '90 to John D. Edwards, on August 14, 1993.

Christopher Hilyard Brower '91 to Kimberly Downing Teffeau, on October 2, 1993.

Michael F. Sullivan 'M92 to Lorraine Grace Sadler, on August 7, 1993.

## Births

To Frances Kelly Mudd '74, a son, Henry Hooper, on September 27, 1993. Henry joins Edward, 7, and Catherine, 2.

To Peter Takach '76, a daughter, Patricia Ryan, on July 13, 1993.

To Katy Macielag '78 and Billy Maisel '79, a daughter, Macie Ann, on January 8, 1994.

To Ruth Christenson O'Brien '81, a daughter, Kristen Hucksam, on November 3, 1993. Kristen joins brother Evan, 2.

To Cathy Leahy Harrison '82, a son, William Leahy, on July 1, 1993.

To Anne Kelly Laynor '82, a daughter, Kelly Elizabeth, on Nov. 12, 1993.

To Beth Glascock Wyrrough '82, a daughter, Sarah Catherine Webster, on May 3, 1993.

To Audrey Latham '84 and Craig Sutherland '83, a daughter, Lauren Elizabeth, on March 25, 1993.

To Harris Friedberg '84, a son, Justin Ryan, on June 26, 1993. Justin joins his big sister Alyssa, age 4 1/2.

To Nimi Natan '85, a son, Daniel Marshall, on December 15, 1993.

John T. Warrington III '85, a son, John Theodore IV, on January 18, 1994.

To Kris Murphy Brightbill '87, a son, Andrew, on October 14, 1992.

To David Hilliard '87, a son, Charles, on June 30, 1992.

To John R. Kelly '87, a daughter, Hannah, on December 3, 1992.

To Alden Caldwell '88 and Tommy Gaines '86, a son, Carson Reed Gaines, on January 30, 1994.

To Melanie Wing '89, a son, Benjamin James Michael, on December 17, 1993.

children break," she hopes to train and work as a counselor for the prevention of drug and alcohol abuse.

**'71** Phyllis Dondorf Marsh and her husband, Case, are living in Easton, MD, with their 6-year-old daughter, Kate. Phyllis owns and operates a video production service, specializing in wedding and industrial videos.

Col. Stephen A. Mires had his "eagles" pinned on his uniform by his wife, Anne Brown Mires, and the Assistant Secretary of Defense on Oct. 28, 1993. His most recent assignment before serving in the Defense Technology Security Administration was as squadron commander of the 79th Tactical Fighter Squadron during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

**'72** Peggy Bradford Donald and her husband, Keith, have at long last gotten in a full season of sailboat racing in their two-man snipe. For them, 1994 started off right with a 5-mile run in Central Park at midnight on the 31st of Dec. with 5,000 people

and champagne at the water stops.

Stephen Golding has been promoted to Vice President of Finance at the University of Pennsylvania.

David Ripley recently formed his own executive recruiting and search firm specializing in serving the needs of financial and investment firms. Winding Lake Associates is based in Jupiter, FL, where David has lived for the past five years with his wife, Lorraine, and their two children.

**'73** Dr. Constance Burcznski Campbell is retiring from her position as Wallingford-Swarthmore School District's director of pupil services after 17 years.

Linda Baird Cooke will complete her M.A. in Clinical Psychology at Antioch University's L.A. campus in the Fall of 1994 after 20 years in corporate sales and marketing positions. She plans to obtain her M.F.C.C. license from California and practice in southern California.

Beth Kahn Leaman recently represented Washington College at the Inauguration of John J. Piderit, S. J. at Loyola University, Chicago.

**'74** Craig R. Browne has joined the law firm of Goldstein and Manello, a 70-lawyer firm in Boston. This will allow him to provide full-service legal counsel to both his entertainment clients and his litigation clients. His clients currently include singers Anita Baker and Marky Mark and pro-basketball player Maurice Starr of the Charlotte Hornets.

Linda Pelke Fenwick and her husband, Harry, live in the shadow of Camp David and the Catocin Mountains near Thurmont, MD. She is manager of the Quality Control department at Bio-Whitaker, Inc. In her free time she gardens and travels to the Florida Keys to snorkel, scuba dive, fish, and enjoy the sunshine.

Christine Murray Gianquinto and her husband, Paul '76, have three children, Emily (14), Matthew (12), and Maggie (8), and are active in volunteer work. Paul is chairman of the building committee for a new addition to the school. He continues his work as a civilian engineer for the Naval Underwater Warfare Center in New London, CT. Christine, a part-time librarian at the Town library, is a member on the Board of Education member and volunteer at the school.

Christopher Luhn is the partner in charge of litigation for the firm of Ianniello, Anderson, Reilly, Luhn, Nichols, and Lecce, located in Clifton Park, NY. He was recently named to the Board of Directors of the New

York State Trial Lawyers Association, is on the Executive Committee of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America's Traumatic Brain Injury Litigation Group, and serves as the Editor of the Litigation Group's quarterly newsletter.

Lynn Kiselik Schlossberg lives with her husband Roger, three kids, and six dogs in the mountains of Boonsboro, MD. She works at a local college as a counselor for students with special needs. She looks forward to renewing old friendships at Reunion.

Dr. Lisa Turner moved to South Florida after graduation, where in 1978 she became one of the few women in the U.S. to become nationally certified as an automotive tune-up specialist. She sold her business at a profit in 1980 and returned to school to pursue a career in electrical engineering. In 1982, she joined Mitel Corporation. After obtaining certification as a professional quality control technician and quality engineer, she joined the Human Resources Dept. in 1984. Soon after, she entered Nova University's doctoral program in human resource management, completing her Doctor of Science degree in 1989. In 1993, she joined Sensormatic Electronics Corporation to head up the human resource function for the Boca Raton Manufacturing and Engineering Plants. Sensormatic had revenues of \$500 million in 1993, has over 4,000 employees worldwide, and is the world leader in retail theft prevention.

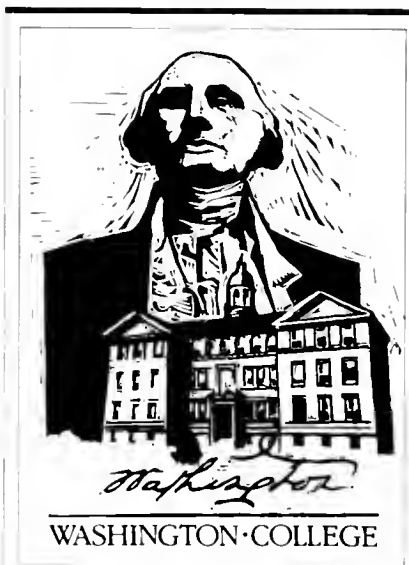
**'75** Charlton Campbell-Hughes is living in Baltimore and is busy this year as president of the Parents' Association of the Waldorf School of Baltimore. Other WC alumni who are active parents there include Kathy Acito '74 and Willie Ohrenschall '75 and Andy Gruver '76.

John L. Eigenbrot is living in Columbia, SC, working as marketing manager for Cooper Power Tools. He and his wife, Wendy, have two children, Megan and Adam.

Mary Silakowski Haye is still teaching eighth-grade English and reading in Toms River, NJ.

**'76** Tom Regan tried to persuade his oldest daughter, Tia, to consider WC, but she was attracted to the big city life in Boston, where she just began her freshman year at Boston University. He is very proud of her and he hopes to see all of the recent changes on campus soon with Amy (8), John (5) and Tia "if she can fit it into her schedule."

Billy Williams has been promoted to a new marketing position with Norfolk Southern and has moved to Chicago, IL.



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**'77** Roderick Adibe is a Director-General responsible for Youth and Sports in the Ghana State Government. He has four children, two sons and two daughters.

Paul J. Noto recently ran for the position of District 6 Legislator in Mamaroneck, NY.

Robert Witter has started a new consulting firm related to architectural design and materials and is residing in Kent County, MD.

**'78** Cyndi Coombs Pepper has gone back to school. She just finished her first semester of nursing school, and is doing very well. Cyndi gets lots of support at home with her husband, Peter, and her four kids quizzing her before exams. She is looking forward to graduating in 1996.

**'79** Tad Jacks has been promoted to assistant headmaster for the Friends School in Baltimore.

**'80** Jonathan Mueller has been an economic officer in the American Embassy, Warsaw, Poland, since July 1992.

**'81** Geoffrey R. Garinther returns to Venable, Baetjer and Howard in the Labor/Litigation Division as Of Counsel, after five years of service as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Maryland. He will specialize in white collar criminal defense. As an Assistant United States Attorney, Geoff prosecuted fraud in the banking, health care, generic drug, and insurance industries, including the largest insurance fraud and money laundering scheme ever prosecuted in Maryland.

**'82** Doug Brown and his wife, Joann, have "left the comforts of the corporate world to become entrepreneurs in Dallas, TX." They have started their own company providing relocation services and housing for people moving into the Dallas area.

**'83** Lori Cafiero works as an investment analyst for Acacia Mutual in Washington, DC. She is married to Jeff Morales, who is a special assistant to the Secretary of Transportation, and they have a son, Kyle, who is 14 months old. They live in Takoma Park, MD.

Chris Ellinghaus lives in Leesburg, VA, with his wife, Lacey Merriman Ellinghaus '84, and his three sons, Christopher (8), Michael (6), and William (3). Chris works for AT&T in Vienna. He still composes and performs music in his spare time and plays for job-related functions.

Ben Kohl and his wife, Kim Libercci Kohl '82, have traded their careers as psychologist and metalsmith for a year of world travel. They are currently worshipping the

goddess Chamundeswari in Mysore, India. They hope to open a kushari upon their return to Manhattan in September.

Sarah Motycka teaches at Plainville High School in Connecticut and is working on her master's degree at the Rhode Island School of Design. She was recently married to William Foster.

Doug White and his wife, Carole, are living in the suburbs of Chicago. He is currently a senior product manager with Abbott Laboratories and his responsibilities include international marketing of HIV diagnostic kits. He invites his WC friends to spend some time on the sunny shores of Lake Michigan.

**'84** Georgeanna Linthicum Bishop is an assistant curator at the Baltimore Museum of Art and is living in White Hall with her husband, Tim.

Scott Brewster is living in Perry Hall, MD, with his fiancée, Beth Wolf '88, and is working as a hospital oncology representative for Pharmacia/Adria.

Karen Morgan Bucklee and her husband, Andy '82, have just moved to Baltimore from Lancaster, PA, with their children Elizabeth, 3, and Brit, 6 months.

Polly White Butler is living in Florida with her husband, Paul, after spending some time in Turkey and London.

Jane Kathryn Davis received her Master of Arts degree in Social Work from the Baltimore School of Social Work in May 1992.

Stephen Frailer recently moved to the Eastern Shore and is employed at K & L Microwave in Salisbury. He and his wife, Racquel, celebrate their 5th anniversary this month; the couple has a 2 1/2-year-old daughter, Rebecka. After six years in the U.S. Navy, including service in Desert Storm, and a brief employment in New York, Stephen is glad to be back in the area he loves.

Dave Michalski is happily married to his wife, Lauren, and works for GE. They have moved into a new home in Annapolis, MD.

Stephanie Paup has completed her master's degree in Library Science and is a librarian for a law firm in Washington, DC.

Kim Phillips is an attorney in Baltimore and works in the Baltimore County Public Defender's Office.

Kelly Hardesty Phipps is living in Centerville, MD. She does some accounting work at The Narrows restaurant on Kent Island

and also has her own catering business.

Anne Lindes Shepard is living in Baltimore with her husband, Oliver, and two children.

Nina Casey Sinnott left her position as director of public relations at Good Samaritan Hospital for a new career as mom to one-year-old Tommy.

Joe and Kathryn Stallings are happily married and living in Centerville, VA. Joe is managing a branch of the Maxim Group, a computer consulting firm.

Betsy Beard Stillings and her husband, John, live in Seattle, where Betsy works as a hospital pharmacist. The couple is enjoying life with their one-year-old, Evan, who is already destined to be another coxswain, since he has quite a voice and is significantly below the curve on his pediatrician's growth chart.

Audrey Latham Sutherland is now a full-time mom after a 9-year career with Martin Marietta Laboratories. Her husband, Craig '83, has been an operations research analyst with the Defense Department for the past nine years. The couple has two children, Erin, 3 1/2, and Lauren, 9 months.

Lucie Hughes Wagner is director of development at the Hanna More School in Reisterstown, MD. She's happily married to classmate Kip Wagner who works in his family business. They live in Baltimore with their children Leslie, 6, and Tommy, 3.

Hansi Wittich is happily married to fellow WC grad Susannah Chase. They live in Philadelphia, where Hansi works as a consultant and Suzie for college development.

**'85** Nimi Natan, his wife, and new son have moved to an old farm house in Solebury, PA.

Jill DelConte Virmelson is still teaching and looking for a counseling position. She and her husband Scott are still fixing up their home for their growing family.

**'86** Tommy Gaines is working as a general contractor with Hencken and Gaines, Inc., and his wife, Alden Caldwell-Gaines '88, is studying for teaching certification in French and Special Education.

Patricia Vervier Starkey traveled to Greece this fall with Lorna Moloney '87 to visit with Zoe Lynne Weil Sursock '86. They all had a great time and are wondering if anyone has heard from Skip Middleton '87.

**'87** Sandra Freeman Cannon is celebrating 3 1/2 years with the marketing department of the Heron Point Retirement Com-

munity in Chestertown. She is the move-in coordinator and sales counselor. John Flavin and his wife, Beth, live in Wilton, CT, with their yellow lab, Tide.

Dina Beck Pizolato and her husband just bought a new home in Easton, PA. They are still waiting for their grass to grow.

Alison M. Shorter is enjoying her tour in the sun at the American Embassy in Tunis, Tunisia (North Africa).

Amy Jean Steigleman is a lawyer in Columbia, MD, with Fredric G. Antenberg, Esq.

**'88** M. Joanne Wilson Austin is the Delaware State Museum's exhibit arts specialist. Her first exhibit, titled "To Have and to Hold: Delaware Wedding Gowns," features a dozen 19th-century gowns. She says that her theater background is certainly coming in handy now. She and husband, Bill, are building a house.

Christopher Fascetta is an associate with the law firm of Rodgers and Dickerson in Timonium, MD. He recently purchased a new home in White Marsh.

Dave Marshall recently graduated first in a class of 200 with a 4.0 from Wilmington College, earning a master's of science degree in business management. He was presented with the Richard Campbell Posnell Award for the highest academic average.

**'89** Eugenia Auchincloss bought a house in historic Chestertown and is really enjoying it. She still teaches eighth-grade English and this year coached volleyball.

Cindi Dingus is working as an executive assistant to Congressman Wayne Gilchrest.

John Macielag is employed as a financial consultant with Merrill Lynch at their Baltimore office. He enjoys sailing, skiing, and making money.

Kathleen McGuigan is executive assistant to the senior vice president of Government Affairs for an insurance lobbying firm.

Janet Simms received a second bachelor's degree in art from Salisbury State University and is director of public information at Wor-Wic Community College in Salisbury. She is enjoying her new home and wishes all the best to Laura Brown Deen '87 and Richard Gentry '86.

Walter Spence recently joined the Carbon Products Division's personnel department at Reynolds Metals.

Andy Webb is the director of sales marketing for Pumpkin Productions Company.

**'90** Carrie Blackburn was admitted to the Maryland Bar in December 1993. She is clerking for Judge Edward Angeletti of the Baltimore City Circuit Court.

Tony Caligiuri, the staff director for Congressman Wayne Gilchrest, joined Mike Jenkins '90 at the christening of Chris '88 and Nicole Ballenger '90 Fascetta's first child in January.

Tim Keehan is a guard for the Frederick Flyers lacrosse team.

Tina Smith is living in Columbus, OH, working toward a master's degree in higher education and student affairs at Ohio State University. She hopes to work in leadership development and training.

Joe Van Name was recently appointed commander of the James Ward Wood Province for Kappa Alpha.

**'91** Matthew Giller is working as an OTC trader for Prudential Securities in New York City. He is also passionately involved with playing rugby for the NYAC.

Erin O'Neal is working as the Chesapeake Bay Foundation manager for Hampton Roads. She often works with students from grades 7 to 12, providing field experiences in Bay environments.

Jocelyn Reppert earned her master's degree from the University of South Carolina in experimental psychology this fall. She will continue in the doctoral experimental psychology program there.

Marcus Suppo is attending veterinary school in St. Kitts, British Virgin Islands.

Amy A. Tiehel recently produced and directed an educational documentary, "The Black Americans of Achievement" video series.

Rob Thompson spent his last \$1.50 on a pen and is now writing in squalor in Aspen, CO. His roommate, Jacque Collins '91, gets on his nerves, but not as much as he gets on hers, so she spends as much time as possible avoiding Rob by involving herself in local theatrical productions and destroying her youth on the slopes. You can reach them at P.O. Box 8268, Aspen, CO 81612.

**'92** Jenny Golden has just been promoted to assistant account executive at a small public relations firm in New York City.

Tom Leigh is a graduate student of biology and plans to pursue veterinary medicine.

Jeffrey Rexford recently was promoted

within Chase Manhattan to the Foreign Exchange trading desk. He will be a sales assistant working out of the company's world headquarters on Wall Street.

**'93** Adam Brown taught in Prague while living with Matt Shields '93 and is now traveling through Bulgaria, Italy, Greece, Turkey, and France. He is planning to end up in Pamplona, Spain, in July and says that he will settle down in the fall.

Traci Castello earned her property and casualty insurance license in November 1993.

Samantha Clements has completed her first year of graduate school and plans to earn her M.S. in Chemical Engineering with a concentration in pharmaceutical engineering in 1995. This summer she will work for Merck Pharmaceutical in West Point, PA.

David Dietz is a juvenile counselor at Kent Youth, Inc., in Chestertown.

Courtney Grady is trying to pursue a degree in occupational therapy.

Shawn Hamill sends thanks to Dennis and Judie Berry for helping him to obtain one of his dreams, attending grad school and finally seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. "B.W. — Congrats. You did it!"

Miriam Jecelin is working at Johns Hopkins oncology center in a research laboratory, studying immunological response to Hodgkin's Disease and to the Epstein-Barr virus.

Dennis Kelleher is attending Widener Law School in Wilmington, DE.

Kristen Kujawski is working in the House Energy & Commerce Committee Minority Counsel's Office on Capitol Hill in Washington. She is a Staff Assistant to the Republican Members' counsels that research and draft proposed legislation. She hopes to begin graduate school next spring.

Keri Nygaard is teaching English to 7th-graders at Bennett Middle School in Salisbury, MD.

Stephanie Sherwell has been accepted for graduate study in the United Kingdom. She is currently working and saving money for airline tickets.

Bethany Wilson is attending Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service in Manhattan, NYC. She will graduate next year with a master's degree in Clinical Social Work. She is doing a field placement at the Park Avenue Women's Shelter, providing her clients with clinical and concrete services.

## Deaths

Kathryn Smith Brinsfield '29 died October 2, 1993 of a heart attack. She is survived by her son, two daughters, six grandchildren, and a sister.

G.F. "Gimp" Carrington '29 died February 28, 1994 of heart failure. A coach at Crisfield High School and then at Frostburg State College, he returned to Crisfield after World War II. He was principal of the Crisfield High School until 1960, when he became supervisor of high schools, then assistant superintendent of schools in Somerset County. He was a member of the Frostburg College Athletic Hall of Fame, Washington College's Athletic Hall of Fame, and the Eastern Shore Baseball Hall of Fame. He is survived by two brothers, a sister, and two nephews.

J. Scott McKenney '29 died January 2, 1994. Survivors include a sister, Kathryn M. Michaels '34.

Margaret Russell Van Gilder '31 died Feb. 1, 1994 in Centreville, MD. She was a teacher in Chestertown High School until her marriage, after which she lived in Bristol, PA. She was active there in the Red Cross and in the choir and women's society of First United Methodist Church. She returned to Chestertown in 1987. Survivors include two cousins.

Martha Winder Goldsborough '32 died January 17, 1994 of pneumonia at the Fairfield Nursing Center in Crownsville, MD. She had been the first librarian at the Severna Park branch of the Anne Arundel County Library. She is survived by her daughter, Martha G. Cooley '55, a son, and eight grandchildren.

Anne McKenney Preston '36 died October 18, 1993. She was a staff guide at Winterthur Museum from 1961 to 1989. For many years, Mrs. Preston was a volunteer on the Junior Board of Memorial Hospital. She was a member of the Historical Society of Delaware. Survivors include a sister, Kathryn McKenney Michaels '34, a daughter, and a son.

Ellery J. Ward '36, educator and coach, died April 12, 1994. Following World War II, he returned to Chestertown where he taught physical education and coached at Chestertown High School. From 1962 until 1974 he was principal of Rock Hall High School and Middle School. Active in the state's physical education programs, he also made significant contributions to junior athletics, including Church

League basketball and Little League baseball. A four-year letterman in football and basketball at WC, he was inducted into the College's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1982. He is survived by a daughter, a son, and three grandchildren.

Katherine Sheppard Kilby '37 died November 26, 1993 at South Jersey Hospital System. She taught mathematics briefly at Rising Sun High School in Maryland, then returned to the Bridgeton area, where she taught mathematics for 31 years at Bridgeton Junior High School. She was a member of Christ Lutheran Church in Bridgeton and the Alpha Chi Omega sorority. Her late husband, Raymond J. Kilby '39, died in 1986. She is survived by a son, Shepard R. Kilby, and a cousin, Sara Lou Peck.

Mark Morse '40 died November 15, 1993 in Delaware County Hospital. He was an inventor and researcher for 43 years with the DuPont Co. According to his son, Mark, his most notable invention was a weathering machine used to test the durability of paint and other coatings. He retired in 1990. A fellow in the American Society for Testing Materials, he was also a scoutmaster for the troop at his church, St. Francis of Assisi Church in Springfield. In addition to his son, Mark, he is survived by his wife, Mildred; two other sons, David and Stephen; daughters, Judith, Nancy Weller, and Mary Ann Anderson, and 13 grandchildren.

F. Spencer Robinson '43 died April 12, 1994 in Naples, FL. A former vice president for development at Beloit College in Wisconsin, he was Washington College's first alumni director. Diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease in 1972, he moved to Florida and devoted much of his time to raising money for ALS research, as well as to other community outreach programs. Washington College presented him with an alumni citation for public service in 1988. Surviving are his wife, Betty, two sons, six grandchildren, two sisters, and two brothers.

Elizabeth Dorsey Garman '45 died November 30, 1993 at her home. She had been a co-owner of Sky Valley Motel in Bartlett, NH, since 1946, and was an active member of St. George's Episcopal Church in Durham. She enjoyed cooking and was well-known for her cinnamon rolls. She was predeceased by a son, Douglas, who died in 1969. Survivors include her husband of 11 years, Earl M. Garman, two sons, three daughters, a step-daughter, 10 grandchildren, two

great-grandchildren, a sister, and many nieces and nephews.

Mary Jane Ervin Metcalfe '48 died November 29, 1993 at Sacred Heart Hospital in Cumberland, MD. She taught English and journalism at Bruce High School from 1961 to 1977 and at Keyser High School from 1977 to 1987. She also recently owned and operated Main Street Books in Keyser. She received her master's degree in education from West Virginia University. She was a member of the Keyser Presbyterian Church, the Mineral County Education Association, the West Virginia Education Association, and Alpha Delta Kappa. Survivors include three daughters, one son, and five grandchildren.

George Richards Lake '49 died December 23, 1993 of pulmonary fibrosis. Born in Riga, Latvia, Lake was a captain in the Air Force, a WWII veteran, and a veteran of the Korean Conflict, receiving many medals and honors for his service to his country. He was a supervisor at the DuPont plant, Seaford, DE, and retired in 1983 after 36 years. His wife, Marjorie Ann Chambers Lake, died in September 1993. He is survived by four daughters and eleven grandchildren.

Janice Burgess Spitzer '49 died April 9, 1994 after a long battle with cancer. She is survived by her husband, George, and three children, Lee Ann, George Jr., and Leslie.

Patricia P. Grason Bozonelos '50 died suddenly on May 12, 1993 at Conway Regional Hospital in Conway, AR. Survivors include her mother and her two children.

Colonel MC U.S. Army Retired Samuel James Mangus '53 died November 9, 1993. He was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Michael Lee Craft '69 died September 22, 1993 of pulmonary edema at his home. He worked at the State Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, in Dover, DE, in the 1970s. Earlier, he was assistant manager of the Star Democrat newspaper, Easton, MD. He is survived by his mother, Emma Hall Craft.

Priscilla Valliant Ely '70 died January 20, 1994 after a five-year struggle with breast cancer. Survivors include her husband, T. Christopher Ely '70, two daughters, two brothers, a sister, her mother, and many nieces and nephews.

# CURRENTS

## Chiapas: The Third World of Mexico

by Charlotte R. Hignutt '45

*Editor's Note: The eyes of the world have focused lately upon Chiapas, Mexico, since the outbreak of violence there last winter. Charlotte R. Hignutt '45, a biologist, has lived for a portion of each of the last 22 years in Palenque, Chiapas.*

Mexico is not a democracy. It has all the trappings of a democracy — a president, a congress, courts, governors, mayors — but these are only borrowed titles. There are elections but PRI, the party of the president, always wins. Mayors are appointed, not by the people of the towns, but by governors. The money coming through the political system greases the wheels of PRI instead of attending to community needs. Governors and mayors become wealthy, and the exceptions are those who have not been cooperative. Carlos Salinas, during his six years as president, has been extraordinarily successful in initiating change while maintaining his political powerbase in PRI. He must use the powerbase to replace himself with a president who will continue his policies, because Mexican presidents are limited to one six-year term. Salinas has brought Mexico into the 20th century of government and economics, but the process has only just begun.

The center of the Zapatista movement is in the Mexican state of

Chiapas. Chiapas is Mexico's southernmost state and also its poorest. It is huge, mountainous, forested, and beautiful. The land of the Maya, it draws tourists from around the world. It once belonged to Guatemala. Its Indian population greatly exceeds its Ladino population (mixed Indian-Spanish or pure Spanish). But political power is Ladino and the corruption extant in this power is beyond the belief of the most skeptical American.

The governors of Chiapas have been backward, repressive, and greedy. Lacking political power, the Indians live in total poverty — poor housing, few schools, no electricity, poor nutrition and medical care, and most devastating of all, without hope.

These were once the Maya, a proud people of talent and intellect. Now they are desperate for the power to force the government to address their needs. From this desperation grew the Zapatista Army of National Liberation (EZLN). The guns and training arrived, perhaps via the rivers. Was this the same training and were these the same guns supplied illegally by the U.S. government to the Contras?

The Indians of the Chiapas have clever, resourceful, orderly leadership. They waited for the right president and the most vulnerable political moment — January 1, 1994, after NAFTA had been safely signed and activated.

First: They entered the towns and demanded a redress of grievances. They entered with guns. They used them with some reluctance and selectivity, but accidents also happened. The guilty political Ladino powerbase was terrified — they ran, they hid, they screamed for protection. They did everything but listen and negotiate.

Second: The federal government made a gross error — it sent the army, brutes with guns and planes with bombs and machine-guns to destroy helpless villages in the mountains. The Zapatista shot some and then disappeared into the forests.

Third: The world became aware of the Zapatistas through media. The Mexican magazine, *Proceso*, published a history of the corrupt governors of Chiapas. Carlos Salinas had an image problem, or was it the opportunity he had been waiting for? He removed Patrocinio (a corrupt ex-governor of Chiapas in charge of Federal Indian Affairs program). He removed the governor of Chiapas. He removed the army. He conferred with Zapatista leaders in the state capitol in Tuxtla Gutierrez. He arranged a conference in San Cristobal with a government representative (Comacho Solis), the Catholic bishop of San Cristobal, and leaders of various Indian groups. He declared a unilateral cease-fire. The Zapatista reserved their opinion and declared nothing.

Fourth: Now, world relief organizations are sending and distributing items themselves. Negotiations are on-going. Tourists, the main source of income for Chiapas, have vanished, and Ladino hotels and restaurants are empty. The power the Indians of Chiapas can exert upon the economy of the state has received attention, and they have an unprecedented chance for a voice in the political process. The new governor of Chiapas is an Indian. On the other hand, people in power relinquish it with reluctance. The Indian governor undoubtedly will need the support from the Zapatista Army — and the world press.



## *College Events*

### **August 14**

Baltimore Alumni Crab Feast, Oregon Ridge, 1-6 p.m. For more information call the Office of Alumni Affairs, 410-778-7812.

### **August 29**

Undergraduate classes begin.

### **September 1**

Fall Convocation, featuring a performance by Charlie Byrd, classical jazz guitarist. Tawes Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

### **September 6**

Graduate classes begin.

### **September 9-10**

Board of Visitors and Governors retreat.

### **September 17**

Kent & Queen Anne's Chapter Flea Market. For more information call the Office of Alumni Affairs, 410-778-7812.

Hynson-Ringgold House featured on Chestertown's Candlelight Tour.

### **September 24**

Washington College Concert Series: New York Chamber Ensemble, Gibson Performing Arts Center, 8 p.m.

### **September 30**

Alumni & Friends Annual Golf Tournament, Chester River Yacht & Country Club, 1 p.m.  
Alumni Golf Tournament Reception, Hynson Pavilion, 5 p.m. For more information call the Office of Alumni Affairs, 410-778-7812.

### **October 1**

Alumni Athletic Games, Hall of Fame Banquet and Induction Ceremony. For more information call the Office of Alumni Affairs, 410-778-7812.

### **October 8**

An Informal Evening with the Washington Ballet, featuring highlights of the best of ballet. Tawes Theatre at 6:30 p.m. Sponsored by the 1782 Society. For tickets call 778-7849.

### **October 23**

Boston Alumni Reunion, Head of the Charles. For more information call the Office of Alumni Affairs, 410-778-7812.

### **October 29**

Parents' Day

For more information contact: Jessica Davies, Special Events Coordinator, (800) 422-1782, ext. 7849. For a complete schedule of athletic events, call the Athletic Department at (800) 422-1782, ext. 7231.

## DONOR'S PROFILE

### Drew Larkin '74

Home: Severna Park, MD

**Profession:** He is President of Maryland Realty Investment Corporation, a Baltimore-based real estate investment firm.

**Most Interesting Project:** During the past five years, he has participated in the successful proxy battle to gain control of the Bank of Baltimore, working out the bank's massive financial reorganization and ultimately realizing maximum shareholder value by entering into a \$346 million sales agreement with First Fidelity Bank Corporation of New Jersey.

**Profile:** Drew serves on the Washington College Visiting Committee and recently served on the Search Committee for the Director of Development. He volunteers as class agent and serves on his 20th Reunion Planning Committee. Husband to wife Leslie and father of five, he is the assistant varsity lacrosse coach at the Severn School and runs a 15-team community lacrosse program for players aged 7 through 15.

**Best College Memory:** "Warm spring afternoons playing softball in front of Somerset while a stereo blared tunes outside someone's window. Time seemed to stand still."

**Giving Level:** 1782 Society.

**Why I Give:** "Washington College has done so much for me. I think it is important that everyone has the opportunity to experience higher education and the liberal arts. It is an important four years of your life."

